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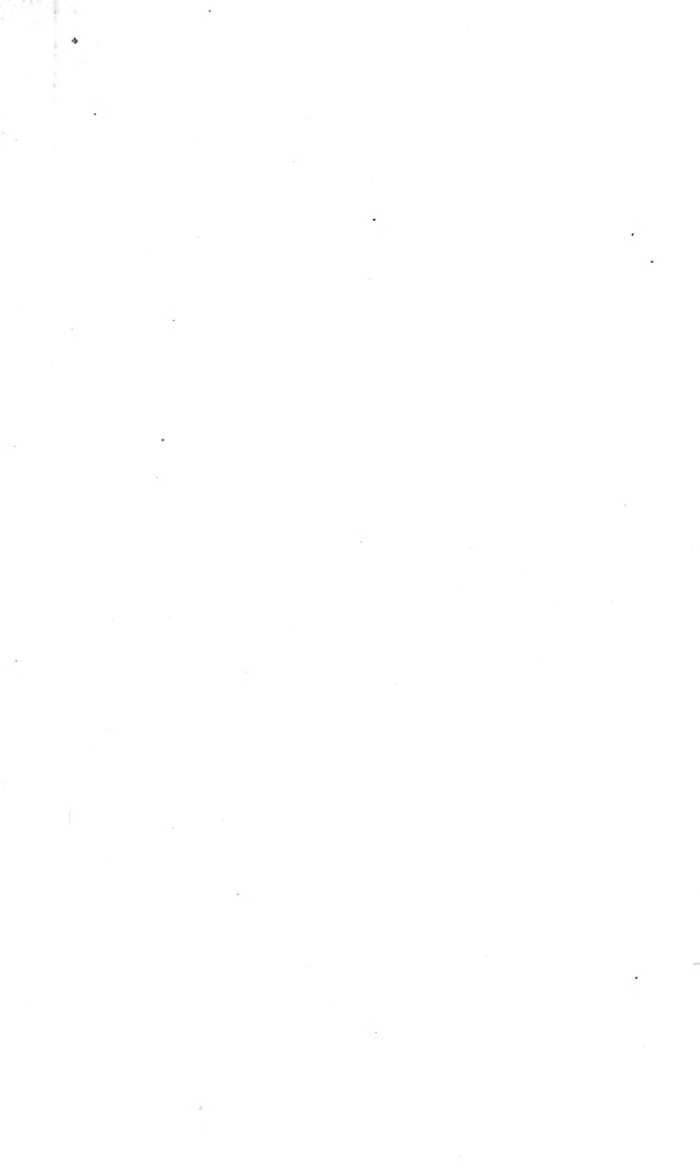
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LANDING OF PILGRIMS

STORY PLAYS OLD AND NEW

BOOK THREE

BY

ALICE SUMNER VARNEY

FORMERLY TEACHER IN NEWTON (MASS.) PUBLIC SCHOOLS

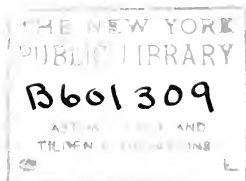


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VARNEY'S STORY PLAYS, BOOK THREE.

E. P. 2

WILLIAM
J. B. B.
V. B. B.

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ХИОУ УИИ
СЛУП
УРАДУ

SNOW-WHITE AND ROSE-RED

I

TIME: *Morning.*

PLACE: *Garden.*

MOTHER. SNOW-WHITE. ROSE-RED. BEAR.

Mother Snow-white ! Rose-red ! Oh, here you are, my children.

Rose-red Yes, mother, we have just been caring for our rose bushes. See how well they are looking.

Mother They are looking very well, but not as well as my dear daughters, Snow-white and Rose-red.

Snow-white Mother, may I go with sister to-day ?

Mother Yes, my dear. You have helped me a very great deal this morning, you may go now and play with your sister in the forest.

Snow-white Thank you, mother.

Rose-red Mother ! Mother ! What is that coming here ?

Mother Why, it is a bear ! Run, run, my children, run !

Snow-white Oh ! The bear is in my way, I cannot run.

Bear Do not be afraid of me. I will not hurt you. Will you let me lie by your pretty rose-bushes ? I am really very tired.

Mother Yes, you may lie down by the rose-bushes, and when you wake up you shall have something to eat.

Bear Thank you, but I am very tired now. When I have eaten, I must hurry back to the forest to take care of my gold. Unless I am there to guard it the dwarfs will steal it all and carry it to their home in the mountains. This moss makes a nice bed.

Snow-white How quickly the Bear went to sleep.

Rose-red Yes, didn't he ?

Snow-white What did the Bear mean by the dwarfs stealing his gold ?

Mother We will ask him when he wakes up. Run with your sister now and play.

The Sisters Keep the Bear until we come back.

Mother I will try to. You must come back by dark.

II

TIME: *Afternoon.*

PLACE: *Forest.*

SNOW-WHITE. ROSE-RED. DWARF. BEAR. BIRD.
GREAT BIRD.

(Bird is heard trilling a song.)

Bird (*Appears hopping along.*) Snow-white and Rose-red are in the forest to-day. I will sing again for them. (*Repeats trilling.*)

Snow-white How lovely it is here to-day?

Rose-red Yes. Isn't that bird a sweet singer?

Snow-white Very.

Bird They like my singing. I will sing for them again some other time. Now I must hurry home with food for my little ones.

Rose-red The bird has gone. I hope he will come again. Don't you want to know more about the Bear?

Snow-white Indeed I do, and where his gold is that the dwarfs steal.

Rose-red I want to know about that too.

Snow-white What is that funny creature coming down the path?

Rose-red It is a man, but how little he is! Can he be one of the dwarfs?

Snow-white I really don't know. See his long beard. Look at it now. It must be a yard long. What can he be searching for by that log? See him pulling at his beard.

Rose-red It is caught in the log. We must help him if we can.

Dwarf That's right, pull! pull! It won't come out.

Snow-white No. But I know what to do. Here are my scissors, I will cut your beard.

Dwarf Be careful! Be careful! Cut close to the log.

Snow-white There, sir, you are free, and only the very end of your beard is gone.

Rose-red Why, he has run away and did not say thank you. What do you suppose was in that bag he carried?

Snow-white Could it have been gold he has been stealing from the Bear? He is such a little man, he may be a dwarf.



Rose-red Oh, here he comes again ! A great black bird is chasing him.

Snow-white Hear the little man scream.

Dwarf (*Appears chased by the Great Bird.*)
Oh ! Oh ! Oh ! Help ! Help !

Rose-red The Great Bird will carry the little man off.

Great Bird I will have you yet. If I get my claws upon you they will not let go. I almost had you that time.

Snow-white We must help the little man. If we hold on to him, the Great Bird can't carry him away.

Dwarf There, see what you have done, torn my coat. Drive the bird off.

Rose-red We might do that. Come, let us try. There, he is running. We must chase him so far that he won't come back.

Dwarf Now that I am alone I will count my gold. The sack is nearly half full. When I have all the Bear's gold the sack will be full to the mouth. Ah, then — (*Closes sack quickly as Snow-white and Rose-red reappear.*)
What, are you two back again ?

Rose-red Yes, sir, we are back again.

Dwarf Where is the bird ?

Snow-white When last we saw him he had flown far, far away.

Dwarf (*Takes up a stick. Bear appears.*)
Well, I am going to beat you both.

Bear (*Strikes Dwarf down.*) You will do nothing of the sort.

Rose-red and Snow-white Oh, you have killed the little man !

Bear He is one of the wicked Dwarfs who steals my gold. He would have killed you.

Snow-white Oh, you are a good Bear ! My sister and I thank you. Why, what has happened ? You were a bear a moment ago.

Rose-red Yes, when you came to us here you were a bear.

Bear I am a prince now, a king's son. The Dwarf turned me into a bear that he might steal my gold. His sack is half full. In a short time he would have had it all.

Snow-white We are glad he did not get it. And we are glad you are a prince and not really a bear.

Rose-red Yes. But if you had stayed a bear we would have been good friends and could have played with you.



Bear You shall play with me. I shall like you both as playfellows. You have been very kind to me.

(The Bird is heard trilling his song.)

JACOB AND WILLIAM GRIMM (*Adapted*).

DAME HOLLE

I

TIME : *Forenoon.*

PLACE : *A spot quite near the Widow's cottage, not far from which stands a well.*

WIDOW. LAZY DAUGHTER. INDUSTRIOUS DAUGHTER.

Lazy Daughter Mother, my playmates call me ugly and lazy.

Widow Don't you mind a thing they say, my daughter. The fact is you are not ugly to look at, nor are you lazy. But you have a lazy sister.

Lazy Daughter People call my sister prettier than I.

Widow She is not, take my word for it. Who knows better than a mother whether her child is pretty or not ?

Lazy Daughter I'm glad you think me pretty, mother. Where is my lazy sister?

Widow At her spinning, I suppose. Yes, there she is by the well.

Lazy Daughter What is she washing in the well?

Widow I cannot make out.

Lazy Daughter Is it her spindle? Sometimes the blood from her fingers gets on it.

Widow That may be. She is a careless creature.

Lazy Daughter What can have happened now? She is peering into the well as if something were lost. Here she comes running to us. She is crying.

Widow (*To Industrious Daughter who runs to her.*) Stop your crying!

Industrious Daughter Oh, I — I —

Widow You can't talk and cry too.

Industrious Daughter I — I —

Widow Stop! Now, what have you done wrong? Where is your spindle?

Industrious Daughter Oh, my spindle —

Widow Yes, what about the spindle?

Industrious Daughter It is in the well; I dropped it there. I was washing the blood

off it when it slipped right out of my fingers and —

Widow Lazy, careless, good for nothing creature !

Lazy Daughter Well said, Mother.

Widow What do you mean by losing my spindle ?

Lazy Daughter Oh, she doesn't care.

Industrious Daughter I do.

Widow You don't. But you shall care. You went to the well to look at yourself in the water — vain thing !

Lazy Daughter Yes, of course that's what she went there for, mother. She can give you no other reason and tell the truth. There was no blood on the spindle, depend upon it.

Industrious Daughter The spindle was all bloody. My fingers had never bled so before.

Widow I have heard enough. Fetch me the spindle by sundown or you shall be beaten as never before. Come, daughter, we will go into the house.

Lazy Daughter (*As she follows Widow out.*)
Worthless creature ! Think you are pretty.
Ha ! Ha ! Ha !

Industrious Daughter You may laugh at me, for I don't care. But I must get the spindle. How am I to do it? Oh, there is no other way; it is better than being scolded, I will throw myself into the well. (*Runs out.*)

II

TIME: *Morning.*

PLACE: *A meadow in the Land of Somewhere.*

DAME HOLLE.	INDUSTRIOUS DAUGHTER.	BREAD.
	APPLES.	FLOWERS.

Industrious Daughter (*She comes into the meadow delighted with all she sees.*) Oh! Oh! How beautiful this is! Flowers, dear flowers, where am I?

Flowers In the Land of Somewhere.

Industrious Daughter Shall I find my lost spindle here?

Flowers We don't know about that. Did your spindle bring happiness into the world?

Industrious Daughter It brought me great unhappiness.

Flowers Then don't think about it any more.

Industrious Daughter But my mother wants it. I jumped into the well to get it. She will beat and scold me if I go back without it.

Flowers Don't think now about anything your mother might do. You are out of reach of her cruel hand, and her scolding voice cannot be heard here.

Industrious Daughter I should like not to be scolded again. I don't feel that I have deserved half the scoldings I have received.

Flowers You haven't. Do the right things here and you will escape scoldings altogether.

Industrious Daughter Thank you, dear flowers, for all you have told me. Why, there is a bake oven! How strange it should be here. (*Runs to oven and looks into it.*) It is full of bread! How good it smells!

Bread Take me out! Take me out! I shall burn, I have been baking so long.

Industrious Daughter In a moment, Bread, I will take you out. As soon as I have found the bread shovel. Here it is. There! There you are! Every loaf is out.

Bread Thanks, many times. You have saved me from burning.

Apples Shake our tree, please shake our tree !

Industrious Daughter Who can it be that called ? Was it the apples on that tree ?

Apples Shake our tree ! Shake our tree ! We are too ripe already.

Industrious Daughter I will shake your tree. How ripe you are. Every one is out of the tree. Let me make you into nice piles. Now when the farmer comes you will be quite ready for him.

Apples Thank you very much for what you have done.

Industrious Daughter Why shouldn't I do what I did ? You needed help that I could give. I wonder who lives in that little house ? Perhaps if there is a woman there she will let me come in and rest. I will go and see.

(*Comes to door of house. Dame Holle looks out and Industrious Daughter is frightened; she starts to run away.*)

Dame Holle Come back ! (*Opens door and steps out.*) Come back ! (*Industrious Daughter returns.*)

What are you frightened at, dear ? Stay with

me. If you will do my housework properly you shall have a nice home here. Will you stay?

Industrious Daughter I can't help but stay, your voice is so kind.

Dame Holle You shall always find it kind if you do what is right.

Industrious Daughter I shall do my very best.

Dame Holle Yes, I am sure you will. There is one thing, however, to remember; you must be careful to make my bed well. Shake the mattress till the feathers fly about. When you do that it will snow in the world. I am Dame Holle.

Industrious Daughter Oh, Dame Holle! I promise I will serve you faithfully.

III

TIME: *Noonday.*

PLACE: *Near Dame Holle's home. A great gate stands not far away.*

INDUSTRIOUS DAUGHTER.

DAME HOLLE.

BARNYARD COCK.

Dame Holle What is it, child, why are you sad? It shows in your look and I hear it in your speech.

Industrious Daughter I can't think why I am sad. I have been very happy here. You have given me such a good home, Dame Holle.

Dame Holle Is there not something your heart craves, some wish that has not been granted?

Industrious Daughter I know what it is now! I have a great longing to see my own home and people. If you are willing, Dame Holle, I will go back to them.

Dame Holle It pleases me to hear you say you wish to go home. You have served me so well and faithfully that I will show you the way myself.

(Dame Holle leads Industrious Daughter to the great gate.)

Industrious Daughter *(As they come to the great gate.)* I have never seen this gate before.

Dame Holle No, you have never been this way till now. The gate opens into the world where you belong.

Industrious Daughter Oh, how wonderful! Shall I open it?

Dame Holle The gate will open itself.

(Gate swings wide open.)

Industrious Daughter *(Runs into gateway.)* See, dear Dame Holle, there is my home !

Dame Holle Yes, I know, dear.

Industrious Daughter *(A shower of gold falls upon her and the gold clings to her clothing.)* Why, Dame Holle, what is this ? Why am I covered with gold ?

Dame Holle It is for you, a reward, because you have been so industrious and done your best to please.

Industrious Daughter Thank you ! Thank you, dear Dame Holle !

Dame Holle You have earned it all. I am glad you are pleased. Here is the spindle you lost.

Industrious Daughter Oh, I had quite forgotten I had lost one. Hark !

Barnyard Cock Cock-a-doodle-do. Our golden girl is here again.

Industrious Daughter That is our rooster crowing ! Good-by, Dame Holle !

Dame Holle Good-by !

(Gate suddenly closes and shuts Dame Holle from sight.)

IV

TIME: *Morning.*

PLACE: *A meadow in the Land of Somewhere.*

DAME HOLLE. LAZY DAUGHTER. BREAD. APPLES.
FLOWERS

Lazy Daughter (Comes into meadow in a slow, uninterested fashion.) I suppose this is the meadow my sister told about. I don't call these flowers very pretty. I wonder if they are going to talk?

Flowers Wouldn't you like to know where you are?

Lazy Daughter Oh, I know where I am. This is a meadow in the Land of Somewhere. You can tell me where Dame Holle lives.

Flowers That you may find out for yourself.

Lazy Daughter You are as disobliging as you are homely.

Flowers We like people to be obliging to us.

Lazy Daughter Do you? Well, you will get no favors from me. I wonder where the bake oven is my sister saw?

Bread Take me out! Take me out!

Lazy Daughter Where did that voice come from?

Bread Come here and take me out.

Lazy Daughter It came from that oven. It is Bread calling.

(*Goes to oven and looks into it.*)

Bread Take me out ! I shall burn, I have been baking so long.

Lazy Daughter I shall have nothing to do with you. You would only soil my hands and clothes.

Apples Shake our tree, please shake our tree !

Lazy Daughter Oh, yes, the apples are calling now.

Apples Shake our tree ! Shake our tree ! We are all too ripe.

Lazy Daughter I will not touch your tree. Do you think I want to be hit upon the head by you as you fall down ?

Apples She is not very obliging.

Bread No, she is not.

Lazy Daughter That must be Dame Holle's house. It is quite small. I wonder where the gate is that is to give me a shower of gold ? I don't see it. I will go to the house and let Dame Holle know I am here.

(*Is about to knock at house door as Dame Holle opens it and steps out.*)

Dame Holle I see you are not afraid ?

Lazy Daughter I don't know why I should be when I know that you are Dame Holle, and are very kind.

Dame Holle It is a pleasure to be kind, but sometimes we must be a little severe with those who don't do quite right. Will you stay with me, my dear ?

Lazy Daughter I think I would like to.

Dame Holle I shall expect you to do my housework. If you do it properly, you will have a nice home here. There is one thing that you must be very careful about —

Lazy Daughter You mean to make your bed just right ?

Dame Holle Yes. Yes, you must shake the mattress until the feathers fly about so there will be snow in the world. Do you think you can do that ?

Lazy Daughter Oh, I can try.

Dame Holle Come inside and I will show you about the work you are expected to do.

V

TIME: *Noonday.*

PLACE: *Just inside the great gate near Dame Holle's home.*

DAME HOLLE. LAZY DAUGHTER. BARNYARD COCK.

Lazy Daughter So this is the gate that opens out into the world. I wonder where the gold will come from that is to cover me the way my sister was covered? That is some magic Dame Holle knows.

Dame Holle (*Comes up to Lazy Daughter, walking rapidly.*) You are tired of living here?

Lazy Daughter Yes, I want to go home. You expect too much of those who work for you.

Dame Holle Your sister did all I have asked you to do and a great deal more.

Lazy Daughter My sister was made to work.

Dame Holle We were all made to work, but you don't seem to have found it out.

Lazy Daughter What's more I don't mean to trouble myself about finding it out.

Dame Holle Oh! You don't?

Lazy Daughter No, I don't, Dame Holle. Please open this gate.

Dame Holle (*The gate swings open.*) Your

asking opens it. There is your home. Good-by !

Lazy Daughter You are going to pay me ?

Dame Holle For work you did not do ?

Lazy Daughter I made your bed.

Dame Holle How did you make it ? So poorly that I ache from lying on it.

Lazy Daughter I did other work. You showered my sister with gold for what she did.

Dame Holle There is a shower awaiting you.
(*A black dust falls upon Lazy Daughter and clings to her clothing.*)

Lazy Daughter Oh, what have you done to me, Dame Holle ?

Dame Holle Rewarded you as you deserve.
(*Gate suddenly shuts Dame Holle from sight.*)

Lazy Daughter What will my mother say when I come to her ? And my sister ? She will laugh at me. Oh, this is terrible stuff ! Dame Holle, you are a horrible old witch. Oh, why did I ever go to you ? I will go to my mother now and not leave her again.

Barneyard Cock Cock-a-doodle-do. Our sooty girl has come home again.

JACOB AND WILLIAM GRIMM (*Adapted*).

THE UGLY DUCKLING

I

TIME: *Morning.*

PLACE: *Under a shed.*

MOTHER DUCK. FOUR DUCKLINGS. OLD DUCK.

Mother Duck Dear me, I am tired of sitting on this nest ! Why don't my ducklings hatch ? Very few of my friends will come to see me here, they are all out in the deep river having a good time.

First Duckling Peep ! peep !

Mother Duck Bless me ! if here isn't a duckling now.

Second Duckling Peep ! peep !

Third Duckling Peep ! peep !

Fourth Duckling Peep ! peep !

Mother Duck What a fine lot of little ducks I have ? Children, I want you to say "Quack ! quack !" not "Peep ! peep !" That was not well done at all. But you will learn. There, that was better done. Now you may look about. Those are green leaves.

First Duckling How large the world is.

Other Ducklings Isn't it large ?

Mother Duck This is not all of the world.

Ducklings Oh, mother ! Not all of the world ?

Mother Duck No ; the world reaches far over the other side of the garden. It extends to the parson's field. But I have not been as far as that.

Ducklings Isn't the world wonderful ?

Mother Duck It is very wonderful. What, all my ducklings are not out ? No ; that largest egg is not even cracked. I wonder how much longer I shall be kept here. I am quite tired.

Old Duck Good day, neighbor. How are you getting on ?

Mother Duck Well, very well. See my four ducklings. Are they not the dearest you ever saw ? I am truly proud of them. But that egg takes so long to hatch ; it will not break.

Old Duck Let me look at the egg you say will not break. I believe it is a turkey's egg. I was led to hatch some once. But after all my care and trouble with the young ones they were afraid of the water. Yes, I am sure that is a turkey's egg. Let it lie there. You would better teach the other children to swim.

Mother Duck I won't give up yet. I have sat here so long already I may as well try a few days more.

Old Duck Just as you please. But you will find the chick a turkey, not a duck.

Mother Duck We will see.

II

TIME: *Several mornings later.*

PLACE: *Under a shed.*

MOTHER DUCK.	UGLY DUCKLING.	A DRAKE.
A DUCK.	SPANISH DUCK.	CAT.

Ugly Duckling Peep! peep! Have I no mother?

Mother Duck Who is calling? Why, I declare! that great egg is broken. You do not look like a duck. You are so large and so ugly looking. You may be a turkey. Come with me. Come, ducklings, we are going to the river. You must be taught how to swim. That was well done. Why, Ugly Duckling is swimming as well as the best. How finely he uses his legs, and how well he holds himself! No, he is no turkey. He is my own child;

and he is not so very ugly if you look at him rightly. Come, children; come! come! we must go to the duck yard. Stay close by me so that no one may tread upon you, and take care that the cat does not get you.

A Drake (*Mother Duck, Ducklings, and Ugly Duckling are coming into duck yard.*) That eel's head is mine.

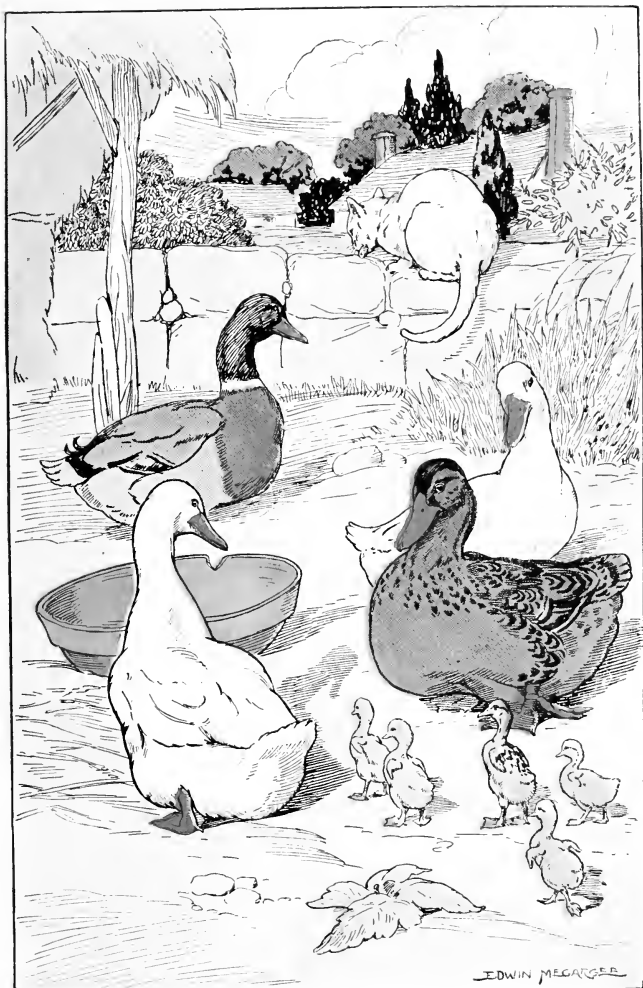
A Duck It is not yours.

Cat You shall neither of you have the eel's head, I will take it.

Mother Duck That is the way of the world. I should have liked that eel's head myself. It would have made me a good dinner. Now behave as well as you can. You must bow your heads before the fat old duck yonder. She is of Spanish blood and the most distinguished duck in the yard. That red rag tied to her leg is something to be proud of. It is put there so the farmer won't lose her, and by this sign everybody knows who she is.

Spanish Duck Mother Duck! Mother Duck! are you not going to bring your children for me to see?

Mother Duck Yes, right away. Now, quickly.



Turn your toes out, not in. See? So. When you bow your heads say, "Quack!"

Ducklings Quack! Quack!

A Duck See that duckling! That ugly fellow. We will not have him here.

Mother Duck You shall not bite my duckling. Let him alone. He does nobody any harm.

A Duck He ought to be bitten, he is so big and ugly.

Spanish Duck Your other children are all so beautiful. I do wish that one might be improved.

Mother Duck Your Grace, I fear that cannot be done. Although not beautiful, he has a good temper, and swims grandly, the best, I think, of all my children. I would like him not so large, but I think he stayed too long in the egg. He will no doubt grow up strong and be able to take care of himself.

Spanish Duck Perhaps. The other ducklings do very well. Make yourselves quite at home, my dears. If you find an eel's head, bring it to me.

Mother Duck Thank you, your Grace. Come, children, follow me.

III

TIME : *Afternoon.*PLACE : *Barnyard.*

LITTLE GIRL.	UGLY DUCKLING.	FIRST DUCKLING.
SECOND DUCKLING.	CAT.	DOG.

Ugly Duckling Nobody likes me. My brothers and sisters are pretty. I am not pretty.

First Duckling Oh, you ugly thing ! I wish the cat might catch you.

Second Duckling Or the dog.

Cat What a homely duck !

Ugly Duckling The cat doesn't like me.

Dog I never saw such an ugly creature before.

Ugly Duckling O dear, the dog thinks I am ugly ! He is so friendly with everybody, I thought he might be a friend to me.

First Duckling The cat and dog are sensible creatures.

Second Duckling Very sensible, I call them. We must do something right away to get rid of this ugly duckling.

Little Girl Go away ! You are horrid to look at. Go away ! Go away !

Ugly Duckling I am not wanted here. All I receive is abuse. I shall not stay any longer. I shall run away.

IV

TIME : *Morning.*

PLACE : *By the shore of a pond.*

UGLY DUCKLING.

TWO WILD DUCKS.

Ugly Duckling This is such a strange place where I have spent the night. Am I quite alone here ? No, there are some ducks. They are not the sort I know. They must be wild ducks. Perhaps if I bow to them they will speak.

First Duck What sort of thing are you ?

Ugly Duckling A duckling.

Second Duck Such an ugly creature as you a duckling ? No, I don't think so.

Ugly Duckling That is what my mother called me.

First Duck Where is your mother ?

Ugly Duckling I left her in the barnyard.

First Duck Oh, she's a barnyard fowl. That accounts for a great deal.

Second Duck Yes, it does.

First Duck Call yourself a duckling if you

want to, but I am sure that's not what you are.

Ugly Duckling All I know is everybody says I'm a duckling.

First Duck Not all creatures are as wise as they think they are. What was that ?

Second Duck The hunters. They are shooting at our friends. We must get out of here before they come shooting at us.

First Duck Yes, we must. There go their guns. See ! See ! those two geese have been shot. Make your wings go fast.

Ugly Duckling (*He is left alone.*) What a terrible thing to be shot. Shall I fly ? No, I will hide in these rushes until night comes, then fly away.

V

TIME : *Evening.*

PLACE : *A living room.*

WOMAN. UGLY DUCKLING. CHICKEN SHORT LEGS. CAT.

Ugly Duckling This house is so nice and warm. It was cold flying ; the wind blew me out of the sky. Oh, good morning, hen.

Chicken I am Chicken Short Legs.

Ugly Duckling Good morning, Chicken Short Legs.

Chicken Good morning. But, oh, dear me, you are so ugly !

Woman (*She appears suddenly.*) This is a prize ; a nice fat duck. Now I can have some duck's eggs. I will give you some supper presently. My, my ! What an ugly creature it is ?

Chicken Here comes the master of the house.

Ugly Duckling You don't mean the cat ?

Cat Yes, she means me. I am the master here. We are half of the world and the better half too.

Ugly Duckling Oh no, you are not any such thing.

Chicken Can you lay eggs ?

Ugly Duckling No.

Chicken Then be so good as to hold your tongue.

Cat Can you raise your back, and purr, and send out sparks ?

Ugly Duckling No. I can't do either of those things.

Cat Then you have no right to speak when sensible people are talking.

Ugly Duckling No one here cares for me, only the woman. But she will despise me like the rest when she finds I can't lay eggs. There goes the Sun behind the trees. He will be gone from sight soon. I would like nothing better than a good swim before going to sleep. To swim is so delightful ! It is so grand to have the water close over your head as you dive down to the bottom.

Chicken Dive down to the bottom ? That must be delightful ! You have nothing to do, so you think nonsense. If you could lay eggs or purr, it would be all right. You must be out of your senses. The cat knows more than any one else. Ask him how he would like to swim in the river and dive to the bottom. I will not tell you what I think. Ask our mistress, who knows more than all the rest of the world, if she would like to swim, or let the water close over her head ?

Ugly Duckling You do not understand me.

Chicken We do not understand you ? Such nonsense as you think, child. Who can under-

stand you? Do you know more than all the rest? — than the cat and our mistress? — I do not speak for myself. Thank your stars that we let you in. Are you not in a warm room? Here you may be taught something. But you talk nonsense, and your company is not very pleasant. What I say may not please you, but that is a proof of my friendship, as I am speaking for your good. Take this advice, — lay eggs, and learn to purr as quickly as possible.

Ugly Duckling I should never be happy here. I must go out into the world again.

VI

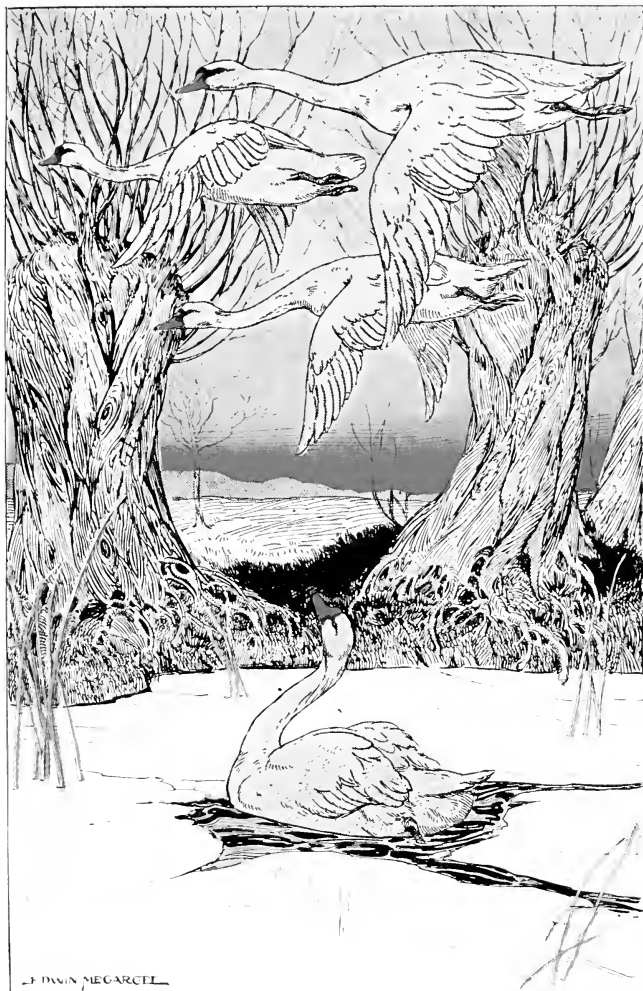
TIME: *Afternoon.*

PLACE: *A shore of a lake.*

MAN.

UGLY DUCKLING.

Ugly Duckling It is growing so cold. The leaves are not green any more. The water is very cold, I have had to swim about all day to keep it from freezing around me. What are those strange birds that just flew out of the bushes? I will call to them. They did not hear me. I wonder where they are going?



I wanted to go with them. Their feathers were so soft, white, and shining, and they curved their necks in such a graceful fashion. Oh ! Oh ! The ice has caught me. All I can move is my feet. If I have to stay here I will surely die.

Man What bird is that frozen in the ice ? I will go to him. Poor bird. He is not dead yet, but could not live much longer. I will take you home. My kitchen fire will warm you.

VII

TIME : *Evening.*

PLACE : *A kitchen.*

MOTHER.

CHILDREN.

Child This is such a funny bird.

Child Did father bring him home ?

Mother Yes. He was frozen in the lake and was almost dead.

Child Oh, wasn't that too bad ?

Child Yes. Isn't he ugly ?

Child I never saw such an ugly bird.

Child He doesn't want any one to touch him.

Mother Why did you frighten him ? He has spoiled that pan of milk.

Children Ha ! ha ! ha ! Isn't he funny ?

Child Yes, yes ! He is so awkward.

Mother Here, get out of my meal tub !

Children Oh ! Oh ! What a sight.

Mother Sight indeed ! A whole tub of meal spoiled, and a pan of milk too.

Child Quick ! Close the door.

Child Stop him ! Stop him !

Child Too late, he has gone. See how fast he is flying away.

Mother Good riddance to the ugly creature.

VIII

TIME: *A morning in spring.*

PLACE: *A field.*

UGLY DUCKLING.

Ugly Duckling That must be the lark I hear singing. It is surely spring. How strong my wings have grown. I can't see how it has been possible when I have suffered so all the cruel winter. I will try my wings. They are very strong. They are taking me up, up, up. How great the world is I see. Yonder is a stream of sparkling water. It runs through a beautiful garden. All seems so lovely. Perhaps I could be happy there.

IX

TIME: *A morning in Spring.*

PLACE: *A garden; a stream running through it.*

UGLY DUCKLING.

SEVERAL SWANS.

Ugly Duckling This is a beautiful garden, and the water is so good. I am glad I came here. What lovely swans! They see me; they are coming this way. When they find how ugly I am, they will kill me. Better to be killed by the swans than to be bitten by the ducks, beaten by the hens, chased by the girl who feeds the chickens, and starve in the winter.

The Swans Welcome! Welcome!

Ugly Duckling You — you will not kill me? Do I see myself in the water? Am I a swan?

First Swan Yes, you are a swan like us.

Second Swan No, you are more beautiful than any of us.

Ugly Duckling But I was born in a duck's nest, under a shed, in a farmyard.

First Swan To be born in a duck's nest, under a shed, in a farmyard, is no matter if one is hatched from a swan's egg.

Ugly Duckling Oh, how thankful I am.

— HANS CHRISTIAN ANDERSEN (*Adapted*).

THE DAISY

TIME : *Forenoon.*

PLACE : *The edge of a ditch by a fence that surrounds a garden,
and the garden.*

TWO GIRLS. TWO BOYS. SUN. TULIP. ROSE. PEONY.
BIRDS.

Daisy Sun, do you know how happy I am ?

Sun I know you look happy. Are you happy ?

Daisy Yes, dear Sun, happy as happy can be.

Sun I am glad to know it, little Daisy.

Bird (*Alights near Daisy. Sings.*)

Happy as happy can be am I

As I pause to sing or mount on high.

I love the day and the gentle breeze

That moves so softly all the leaves.

Daisy Were you singing to me, little Bird ?

Bird I sang for those who have ears to hear.

Daisy I am glad that I could hear your song,
dear little Bird.

Bird It wasn't much. But I have to sing,
I love to.

(*Flies away.*)

Daisy What great gifts I have received !
Sun shines on me, Bird sings that I may hear,
the gentle breeze kisses me, and all the beautiful day is mine to share with all the world.

Tulip Was there ever such an upstart as Daisy heard of before ?

Peony I don't think so.

Tulip You would think to hear the common little creature that everything in the world has been made for her.

Peony Yes, and the world itself.

Rose Why do you say harsh things about our little friend out there by the ditch ?

Tulip I didn't know I was harsh. She is a little upstart. I can't understand why you call her friend.

Peony No more can I. She doesn't belong in the garden, but grows in the fields and meadows and the rough pastures. How would she look in a lovely spot like this ?

Rose Perhaps not so badly. But I am sure she is quite as happy as any of us, although we are carefully cared for by the gardener and she is not.

Peony How any one can be happy who

doesn't live in the garden is something I can't see.

Tulip Why, no ! How can it be possible ?

Rose The garden is all very well, but that carpet of green grass at Daisy's feet is certainly beautiful.

Tulip Oh, who cares for green grass ?

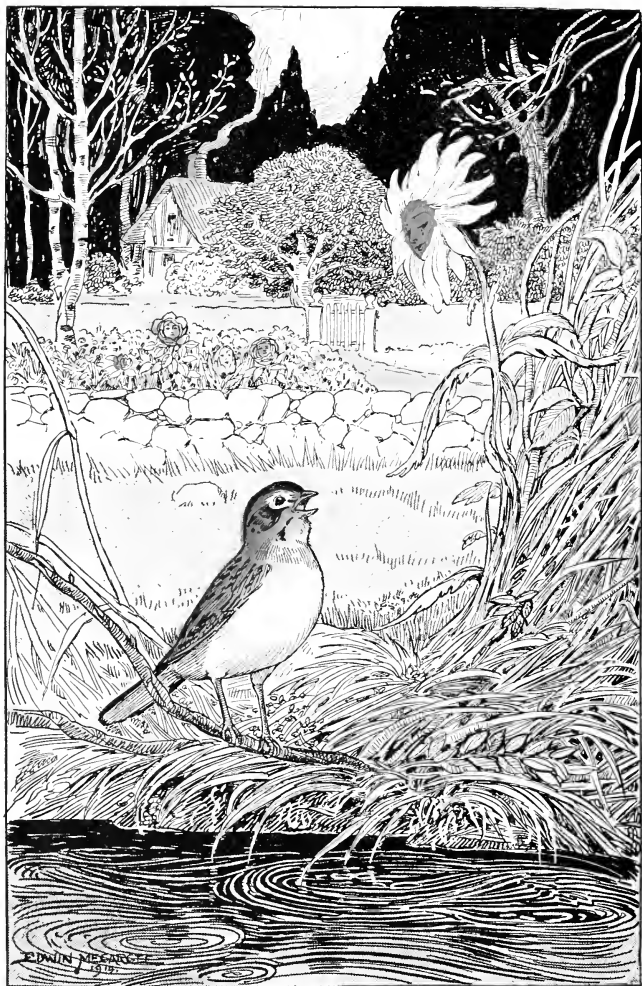
Peony I know, who does ? One sees it everywhere.

Rose Yes, everywhere, almost, green grass grows. It is one of the great blessings of earth. I have a cousin, Wild Rose, down by the pasture wall, who has told me so many, many things about the good that grass does that I wonder if man could live without it.

Tulip He probably could, he does so many wonderful things.

Peony Yes, more than likely he could.

Daisy It is very beautiful in the garden. The flowers are all so pretty, and are dressed so richly. I am pleased that I stand where I can look at them whenever I want to. I wonder if I wouldn't like to live in the garden ? It must be nice to be a garden flower, and be tended and cared for by a gardener.



Bird (*Alighting in the grass by Daisy.*)
You wouldn't like living in the garden, I know you wouldn't.

Daisy Why, Song Sparrow, how do you know that?

Bird Because they are a lot of prigs who live in the garden,—at least most of them are. You are not a prig, now, are you?

Daisy I hope not.

Bird I am sure you are not. I can tell you this, and it need not make you conceited either, you are just as good looking as a lot of those stuck-up flowers that have not much more than clothes to make them proud.

Daisy How can any one be proud of just clothes?

Bird A lot are proud of just that alone.

Daisy Is Rose like the rest? I think of her so often as being different.

Bird I was going to make an exception of Rose, who is a sweet creature. She is proud, I'll admit, but she is kind. If you moved into the garden, she would welcome you right away, and do her best to make you feel at home. But don't you go there, stay here where the

grass is plentiful and green, and the wild things love to come.

Daisy You seem to know a lot, Song Sparrow. You seem to me very wise.

Bird I have no very great wisdom. I see a good deal, and I hear a good deal. You know I am a minstrel singer. A lot of different people listen to me in the course of a year. I use my eyes while I am singing. When I am not singing, I listen to what others have to say.

Daisy I would like to hear you sing now, Song Sparrow. Will you sing that I may hear?

Bird Yes, I will sing. I will make a song about you.

Daisy Why should you make a song about me?

Bird There is more than one reason. Do you know how pretty your dress of silver is, and how like gold is the yellow in your heart?

Daisy I know I am white and yellow, but I have never thought of myself as being pretty. Not pretty as Tulip, Peony, and Rose are.

*Bird**(Sings.)*

You deck the meadows and the fields,
Your presence makes them bright,
The birds, and bees, and butterflies,
And children you delight.

Daisy Oh, why did Song Sparrow fly away ?
I wanted to thank him for his song. The
tulips and peonies are looking out at me as if
they thought I had no right to be sung to.

Peony Can you understand what that Daisy
is saying ?

Tulip Not a single word. What poor taste
that was Song Sparrow showed. He is really
a very pleasing singer.

Peony Do you refer to the song he sang to
that common creature, Daisy ?

Tulip Yes.

Peony I know. It was disgraceful. And
he sat on our fence all the time he was singing.

(Two little girls come into garden.)

First Little Girl Mother said to take tulips.

Second Little Girl Yes. You cut those red ones
while I am cutting these pink ones.

First Little Girl Aren't they lovely ?

Second Little Girl Do you like them as well as roses ?

First Little Girl No, indeed ! Isn't this a beautiful tulip ? It is so large and so very red.

Tulip I wish now I hadn't grown so large and been so red.

Daisy Oh, dear ! That was dreadful. Tulip, in his way, was just as happy as I am. It is all over with him now.

Peony Poor Tulip ! He would have been spared had he been a peony. It might have been better for him had he been just a common daisy.

Second Little Girl We have flowers enough. What have the boys got, Hilda ? It is something in a cage. They are coming with it to the garden.

First Little Girl What have you in the cage, boys ? Oh, a bird !

Second Little Girl The poor little creature ! It wants to get away.

First Little Girl It is too bad to keep him. You ought to let the frightened thing go. It is a dear little song sparrow. He has always sung us such pretty songs.

Second Little Girl I heard him singing out here this morning.

First Little Girl He won't sing if you keep him shut up in a cage.

First Boy He'll sing, I guess, when he finds we don't mean to hurt him.

First Little Girl I don't think that will make one bit of difference. Song Sparrow won't sing as long as he is kept a prisoner.

Second Boy We are not going to let him go.

First Little Girl I wish you would, Arthur.

Second Little Girl Yes, please do. You will say yes, won't you, John?

First Boy I mean to keep him a little while. I am going to get a sod and put in the cage. I can get a good one here where this Daisy is growing.

Second Boy Tear the flower off, we don't want that.

Daisy O dear! I hope he won't do it.

First Boy No, I am going to leave the flower where it is. It looks nice, and the bird may like it. There, don't you see how pretty that is. Little bird, little bird, don't beat yourself so against the cage.

Second Little Girl Come, Hilda, we must take the flowers to mother.

First Little Girl I wish, boys, you would let the bird go. He is sure to die.

First Boy Oh, he won't die. Better take your flowers in before they die. (*First Little Girl follows Second Little Girl into house.*) What will we do with the bird while we go for a swim?

Second Boy Leave it here. On this bench is a good place. We must hurry and get our swim before dinner time.

(*The boys run out, leaving bird on bench.*)

Bird What will become of me? The boys have not left me one drop of water. Oh, I am so thirsty! I shall die, I know I shall die. It is cool down here on the sod, but there is no water to drink.

Daisy Poor little Song Sparrow!

Bird Oh, Daisy, how could the boys be so thoughtless? They have gone without leaving a drop of water. We can't either one of us live long without water.

Daisy I know it. We must have water. Perhaps those little girls will think to bring us some.

Bird I don't believe they will. As for the boys, they are not likely to think of us again to-day. Oh, my heart is breaking! This little sod is not the fields and meadows, the woods and the hills. Daisy, your head is drooping.

Daisy Yes, I cannot hold it up, nor can I stir a leaf. Just a little water would save me.

Bird A very few drops of water would save me. Daisy! Dai-sy!

Daisy What has happened? Oh, dear Song Sparrow, what is the matter? You are trying to answer me, but I do not hear a sound. Dear, dear little Song Sparrow, you sang to me so sweetly only a few hours ago. Oh! Oh! Kind-hearted little bird, you are dead. Your sad little heart is broken. Your sweet song is ended. What am I to do? My head is dropping lower and lower. Now it touches you, little bird. I know I am dying too.

Second Little Girl (*Runs to cage.*) Hurry, Hilda, with the water. Do hurry, please!

First Little Girl Water won't do any good now.

Second Little Girl Why won't the water do good? Give it to me, please.

First Little Girl Can't you see ? The bird and flower are both dead.

Second Little Girl I see now. Oh, it is too bad, too bad ! We must tell mother.

First Little Girl Will she punish the boys ?

Second Little Girl She will make them promise not to catch any more birds.

— HANS CHRISTIAN ANDERSEN (*Adapted*).

A BOY HERO

I

TIME : *Forenoon.*

PLACE : *Peter's home.*

MOTHER.

PETER.

Mother Come, Peter, stop your play and take this cheese to your grandmother.

Peter Where is the cheese, Mother ?

Mother It is in the basket. Be careful of it.

Peter Yes, mother.

Mother Go straight upon your way.

Peter I will, mother.

Mother And do not stop to play.

Peter No, mother.

Mother See that you hurry back too.

Peter I will, mother ; I will come straight home as soon as I have given grandmother the cheese.

Mother Your father must find you here when he comes to supper.

Peter That he shall, mother.

Mother Then begone, and give heed to all I have said.

II

TIME : *Afternoon.*

PLACE : *The grandmother's home.*

GRANDMOTHER.

PETER.

Grandmother Why, Peter, is it you ? Have you come straight from home, and when did you come ?

Peter I came just now, grandmother.

Grandmother You grow to look like your father ; you do not favor your mother or me.

Peter Don't I ?

Grandmother No. What have you brought in your basket ?

Peter A cheese mother has made for you. She bade me come straight here with it, and not play by the way, and to be back home so

that my father might find me when he comes to supper.

Grandmother Well, did you come straight here ?

Peter Yes, I did, grandmother.

Grandmother And you did not play with the idle boys by the way or stop to pick the pretty flowers ?

Peter No, grandmother, I did not play with any boys at all and I did not pick the pretty flowers or I should have brought them to you.

Grandmother I am proud of you, Peter. You are a good boy and to be depended upon to do as you are told. Here is a cake all your own. Now hurry back home that your father may find you when he comes to supper.

III

TIME : *Evening.*

PLACE : *Road by the dike.*

Peter What is that noise I hear, like water dropping ? It is getting almost too dark to see anything. But I must know what the sound is. Suppose there should be a break in

the dike! The sea would come in and we would all be lost. Now the sound is very near. I have found it. Yes, it is water! It is coming through the dike. How can I stop it? All I have is my hand. I will use that and call for help. Ho! Ho! Ho! Help! Help! Help! Come quickly; help, help, help! I can't make any one hear me. I will try again. Help! Help! Help! Come to the dike! The water is running through! No one hears. I have stopped the water running through! I have stopped the water! My hand is cold. How dark the night is. No one will hear me now it is so dark and so late. I must stay here until morning.

IV

TIME: *Night.*

PLACE: *By the dike.*

PETER. FATHER. MOTHER. SEVERAL FRIENDS.

Peter Did I go to sleep? My hand is nearly frozen. What was that? Some one is calling away off.

Father Peter! Peter!

Mother Peter! Peter!

Peter My father and mother are searching for me.

Father Peter! Peter!

Many Voices Peter! Peter!

Peter Can all the people be searching for me? Here I am! Father, father, here I am! My voice is so faint it cannot be heard. Will they come this way?

Many Voices Peter! Peter! Where are you, Peter?

Peter Yes, they are coming this way; they cannot be far off.

Mother (*Runs to Peter and clasps her arms about him. He does not remove his hand from the hole in dike.*) Oh, Peter! Peter!

Peter Mother!

Mother (*Father and friends appear.*) Oh, Peter! What are you doing here? Why, there is a leak in the dike! See, father; good people, see what my boy Peter has done. He found this hole in the dike and stopped it with his hand.

Friends He has saved our lives!

Mother Thank God! My Peter was a brave boy.

— *Adapted.*

THE FARMER AND HIS SONS

I

TIME: *Morning.*

PLACE: *A large field.*

GEORGE. JACOB. ISRAEL. TIMOTHY. JOB. MARTIN.
MARGARET. MATILDA. MINERVA. SUSAN. SARAH.
LOIS.

Susan (*To the other girls as they come into the field.*) See the boys! How hard at work they are.

Lois Yes. I wonder why they are working so hard? Can't you tell us, Margaret, or Sarah? They are your brothers.

Sarah I heard father tell the boys before he died that there is a great treasure hid in these fields.

Minerva Are they digging for it?

Sarah Yes, they dig every day.

Matilda Have they found anything yet?

Margaret (*Interrupting Sarah.*) Yes, plenty of worms and bugs.

Matilda Oh, I am sorry, I want them to find gold or precious stones.

Margaret They find the stones, a precious

lot of them. Nothing will come of all this digging.

Sarah You are hard on our brothers, my sister. Our father would never have told them to dig in this field for a treasure if there is not one here.

Margaret Father was too sick to know what he said.

Sarah Well, sister, you may think as you please, but I still trust the word of my father, and I have faith that all the work of my brothers will be rewarded.

Lois The treasure may not be what you think. It may not be gold, or silver, or iron, so many good things come out of the ground when men give it care.

Minerva Yes, many, many things. Let us hope that the boys will be richly rewarded for all that they are doing.

Susan Oh, I hope they may be. I should feel badly if they were not.

Matilda Indeed I would be very, very sorry. I wish them all good luck.

Lois We all wish them good luck. Come, Margaret, you must join us in this.

Margaret I will do nothing of the sort. If they are pleased to waste their time in this fashion I make it no concern of mine. They will find at last all their work has gone for naught.

Sarah Oh, sister, sister, you might be a little less harsh.

Margaret Harsh ? The person who would go to those boys and tell them that they are fools would be doing a real kindness.

Minerva Margaret, you don't really mean that ?

Sarah No, she doesn't. She is not my true sister to-day.

Lois If something good comes to reward the boys for all their toil she will be glad.

Sarah Her joy will be the greatest of all. Shall we go on to the woods now and eat our lunch ? I see my brothers have stopped to rest.

II

Jacob (*He is seated in a shady place with his brothers, and all are eating.*) We have dug up an acre of the field, and five more remain untouched, but no treasure have we found.

Our father's speech was certainly plain; he said this field contained a great treasure.

George Those were surely his words, brother Jacob.

Martin Yes, brother George, he spoke those very words.

Israel There is no precious metal hid in this acre of ground we have dug over.

Timothy None that my eyes have seen, brother Israel.

Job My eyes are as keen as yours, brother Timothy, or as any pair of eyes here, and all that they have beheld is a few stones, and much excellent earth. Gold, silver, lead, zinc, or iron is not there in visible quantities.

Martin Well, brother Job, shall we keep on digging?

Job Yes, by all means. Our father was a most truthful man, we will find in the other acres what we have not found in this one.

Timothy If we were to use our plows, the land would be turned over more rapidly. As we plowed we could keep close watch of the upturned soil, so that nothing in the way of treasure would escape us.

George I like brother Timothy's suggestion.

Martin Yes, that is all right, we will get the plows as soon as we are done eating, and have rested a little.

Jacob I have been thinking. Here is an acre in which no treasure has been found. There will no doubt be other acres in which no treasure will appear. Now, are we to leave these acres idle?

Israel Why, no, we will plant them. On some we will plant corn, on others wheat, on others potatoes, and on what remains we will plant cabbages.

George Jacob and Israel have spoken wisely.

Job Yes, they have. But let us go for the horses and plows, and continue our search for the treasure which our kind father said we would find in this field.

Timothy It must be here, he would not deceive us.

Martin He never did deceive us. We will make yet more diligent search.

Israel That we will.

George Yes, we will make sure if the treasure be here or not.

Jacob But where no treasure is found we will plant seed, that our labor may not go unrewarded.

III

TIME: *Afternoon.*

PLACE: *A point from which a view of the field may be had.*

Margaret Come this way, girls, you can see the field from here, and over yonder stand the barns. Every one is being filled as rapidly as the horses can get their loads there. For every seed sown by my brothers fifty and one hundred fold have been returned them.

Minerva It is remarkable.

Lois Quite what you expected, is it not, Sarah?

Sarah I had hoped for something of the sort to happen.

Susan You are pleased, I know you are.

Margaret (*Timothy comes along while she is talking.*) I don't see how you know. All she has said since harvesting was begun is, "It is what I had hoped, boys, might come to reward your labor." If she would only make a noise, show in some way that she really does care.

Timothy (*The other boys come along.*) Who cares, sister ?

Margaret Why, Sarah. You would think she did not know a thing about the good fortune that has come to you.

Timothy Do not blame our sister, Margaret, she has shown her interest in ways that differ from yours, but we have understood.

George Indeed we all know that Sarah is glad we have found the hidden treasure.

Margaret But the treasure is not found ?

George Is not ?

Job Think a moment, sister Margaret. What has the field returned to us ?

Margaret A rich and plentiful harvest.

Job Yes. How did it come to us ?

Margaret You — you worked.

Job Yes, we worked to make the harvest come plentiful and rich.

Israel We dug in the ground.

Martin You will remember that our father told us to dig in the field, for a great treasure lies hidden there. We thought at first, and for a long time after, just as you thought, that he meant a treasure of gold, silver, copper,

or precious stones. But when we saw the plants spring up from the seed we had sown, and beheld the promise of the harvest, we knew that our father had meant just the sort of treasure now stored in our lofts, bins, mows, and cellars.

Job He surely meant no other.

Lois Surely not.

Matilda It seems wonderful.

Martin It is wonderful. It is quite as wonderful as anything I know about. This kernel of corn rightly planted and tended, hundreds may come from it. Is that not a treasure one should be proud to possess?

Susan It is indeed.

Minerva It is better than all the precious metals and precious stones one could find in the earth, for we live by the corn, the wheat, and the potatoes, and they will grow for us every year.

Jacob Yes, and the gold, the silver, and the copper, for which we searched so long and closely, once taken away are not to be found again.

Margaret My eyes are open, if all this is for

me to take, and I quite understand. You surely have found the great treasure, my brothers, that our father told you would become yours by digging for it.

Job We know now what we can do well, and that is something worth while.

Sarah Yes, indeed, it is worth while. In finding this treasure, my brothers, you have made yourselves the sort of men that are of use in the world. — Æsop's "Fables" (*Adapted*).

IN UNION THERE IS STRENGTH

TIME: *Afternoon.*

PLACE: *Near a pleasant home.*

FATHER.

EIGHT SONS.

First Son You have taken more than I said you could.

Second Son I have not. You said I might bite to there.

First Son I said to there.

Second Son You didn't, you said to there.

Third Son Do you hear our brothers quarreling?

Fourth Son Yes; what of it? James is a sneaking fellow.

Third Son That is not so. It is Thomas who is the sneak. He will take a mean advantage whenever he can.

Fourth Son You know better than that.

Third Son I know that what I have said is true.

Fourth Son You don't know anything of the sort, and here comes brother Henry, who will prove that I am right. Brother Henry!

Fifth Son Don't you ask me anything. I want nothing more to do with one who tells lies.

Third Son Now answer for yourself.

Fourth Son What do you mean by saying that I lie? You know it is not so.

Fifth Son I know it is so. You lied to me this very morning.

Fourth Son About what did I lie?

Fifth Son You said —

(*Sixth and seventh sons come along talking in an excited manner.*)

Sixth Son Now I will prove you wrong.

Seventh Son How?

Sixth Son By brother Henry, here.

Seventh Son That liar ! Go to him for proof ?

Third Son Now, then, who tells the truth ?

Fourth Son I am no liar ! I can —

(The eighth son comes along.)

Sixth Son You can't prove anything.

Eighth Son No. You live on lies, as I can show.

Fifth Son I would like to know when you were last discovered telling the truth ?

Third Son What I think is that the way one gets along best is alone.

Eighth Son We can spare you. I am sure your being here doesn't help me in the least.

Seventh Son No, nor me either. I could get along if I were never to see any of you again.

Fourth Son I could, and I mean to. I shall go from here this very day.

Fifth Son Good riddance is what I say.

Sixth Son If you were gone this world would be a better place in every way. You are my brother, I know, but what of that ? There is not a more disagreeable fellow living.

Fifth Son Oh, I'm a disagreeable fellow, am I ?

Sixth Son You are.

Fourth Son He is no more disagreeable than you.

First Son You have nothing to say. Who can be more disagreeable than you, I would like to know ?

Fourth Son You. That is the word of everybody.

Second Son Now you have spoken the truth.

Third Son Not all the truth, for a more disagreeable fellow than you does not walk.

Eighth Son Except you.

Third Son Prove that.

Seventh Son He is himself the proof. Without question he is the most disagreeable fellow alive.

Third Son Can he be more disagreeable than you ?

(They continue to wrangle and threaten one another. Father comes to them quickly. The sons stand apart when the Father appears.)

Father My sons, my sons, why do I always find you quarreling. No two of you ever agree about anything. What would happen if

the people of this city disagreed all the time? We don't all think alike, but we can agree to act together so that every one may be helped. James, fetch me that bundle of sticks. You see there are a dozen sticks here tied together. They are none of them large sticks. It would be easy enough to break any single one. Henry, break this bundle of sticks across your knee. What, you can't do it?

Fifth Son Sir, it cannot be done.

Father John, do you try.

Third Son I cannot even bend them, sir.

Father So I see. Arthur, show us how easy it is to break in two the bundle of sticks.

Seventh Son It is not easy, sir.

Father Will you try again?

Seventh Son No, sir.

Father You won't try again?

Seventh Son No, sir. I cannot break the bundle of sticks.

Father James, you are a strong fellow. This will be but a trifling task for you.

First Son Trifling task it may be for a giant, but it is too much, sir, for my strength.

Father Yes, I see it is. Well, Walter, although not as strong as your brother James, will you try to break the bundle of sticks in two for me ?

Eighth Son I will try, sir.

Father Try again. Do not give up the first time.

Eighth Son I — I can't break the bundle of sticks in two.

Father You certainly tried your best. Here, Thomas. I don't think you can do this thing, but I want you to try. Don't be afraid; put out all your strength. Have you done your very best ?

Second Son I think so, sir. I cannot break the bundle of sticks in two.

Father I could not see the sticks bend in the least. Peter, you are a man of much strength. Prove to us now that the bundle of sticks can be broken in two. You cannot break them ? Try again. They will not yield ?

Sixth Son Not for me, sir.

Father Come, son Herbert, do not disappoint me. Show us that to break the bundle of sticks in two is not impossible.

Fourth Son I think it is impossible, sir. I doubt if any man could do this thing.

Father Son, you are right. Cut the bundle open, one of you. Now each take a stick. Break it in two for me. Has each one broken his stick ?

The Sons Yes, sir.

Father Was it hard to do ?

The Sons No, sir, it was a very easy thing to do.

Father Yes. But no one of you could break the bundle of sticks in two ?

The Sons No, sir.

Father What does this teach you ?

The Sons That there is strength in union.

Father Yes. But that is not all. Love must unite you, then you will be safe from all enemies.

The Sons Father, we will not quarrel any more, but will love one another always.

Father Put this promise into practice and the world will respect you, and you need fear no one.

— ÆSOP (*Adapted*).

DON'T COUNT YOUR CHICKENS UNTIL THEY ARE HATCHED

TIME: *Twilight.*

PLACE: *Outside the barn.*

THREE MAIDS.

THREE YOUNG FARMERS.

Jennie Who has a full pail ?

Maggie My pail is full.

Lois It is no fuller than mine.

Maggie Wait until the froth has settled, then you shall see whose pail contains the most milk.

Jennie I am sure my pail has the most milk in it.

Lois No such thing !

Maggie It is not as full as mine by a pint.

John Do you hear those girls quarreling over who has the most milk in her pail ?

Carl Yes. They have a fuss like this after every milking.

Peter I should think they would get tired of it. If we were to spend our time wrangling as they do when would our work be done ?

Carl Never.

John Right you are, Carl.

Peter I must go and feed the pigs.

John I have the cow yard to close, and the henhouse doors to shut.

Carl The horses haven't been watered, I must go to them. I will lock up the barn. But wait a minute !

The Other Two What is it ?

Carl Listen to what Maggie is saying.

Maggie Tell us what you would do if this pail of milk were yours to sell.

Lois Yes, tell us ; you have such big ideas.

Jennie If I had the money this pail of milk would bring I would buy eggs with it.

Lois Yes.

Maggie That would be a good thing to do.

Lois But what would you do with the eggs ?

Jennie I would hatch chickens from them.

John That's a wise enough move.

Peter Jennie is a clever girl.

Lois Would you sell the chickens ?

Jennie Yes. There would be a hundred or more of them, and they would bring me a large sum of money.

Carl Doesn't Jennie know that not every egg is likely to hatch a chick ?

Peter Let her talk. I am sure she is wiser than we think.

John She sees large profit in everything. But let us hear what she will buy with her chicks.

Lois What will you do with this money the chicks bring you ?

Jennie Buy a cow.

Maggie A cow ! Well, a cow is good property.

Jennie Yes, and I would have only the best.

John The girl surprises me.

Carl She plans wisely.

Peter It is just as I have told you all along, the girl is shrewd.

John This is the first time she ever got credit for it.

Peter She hasn't been understood.

Carl That's probably the way of it.

Maggie Do you mean to sell the cow ?

Jennie No, I shall keep the cow and sell her milk and butter.

Lois With all the money you get doing this what will you buy ?

Jennie Why, what should I buy but a mare? Then you will see me riding about as grand as our mistress on Sundays.

Lois and Maggie Look out! Look out!
Jennie, your foot!

Maggie There goes all the milk in your pail.

Jennie Oh, dear! Oh, dear! What will the mistress say. There isn't a drop of milk left. Oh! Oh! Oh!

John The eggs are gone.

Maggie The chicks are gone.

Carl There can be no cow.

Lois She will have no milk and butter to sell, and no mare to ride.

Jennie Oh! Oh! Oh! Oh!

Peter Too late to cry, Jennie, when the milk is spilt. You have a clever way of planning for riches. But take a word of advice: Don't count your chickens until they are hatched.

— An Old Tale (*Adapted*).

AN HONEST TREE

I

TIME: *Sunset.*PLACE: *A forest.*

OLD MAN.

Old Man (*He appears carrying a large iron pot, which he drops to the ground and stands looking at, breathing heavily.*) At last, after searching for many years, I have found the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow. Now I shall never want again. But even precious gold becomes a burden when one has to carry it far. I must rest. But I must be careful not to fall asleep or some thief may steal the treasure that I have sought so many, many years. Perhaps I had better hide the pot of gold somewhere overnight. The trees are asleep. I will put it under one of them. Under this Lombardy Poplar tree is where I will hide it. Her leaves are large and thick, the branches grow near the ground, it will make a fine hiding place. There, I will come for the pot of gold in the morning. Now I must go tell my family of my good fortune.

II

TIME: *Morning.*PLACE: *A field.*

IRIS. ZEUS. HERMES.

Iris Why, — why ! My pot of gold, where can it be ? When yesterday the rainbow was out some one must have stolen it. I will ask father Zeus to help me to find it. He is coming now. Father Zeus ! Dear Father Zeus !

Zeus (*Comes quickly to Iris.*) Yes, Iris, what has happened ? What is the cause of your trouble ?

Iris Yesterday when the rainbow was out some one stole the pot of gold. Do help me to find it, please.

Zeus Indeed I will. I will have Hermes help me.

Iris I see him in the meadow now.

Zeus I will call to him. Hermes ! Hermes ! This way, come this way.

Hermes (*Appears running.*) I am here to do your bidding, Father Zeus.

Zeus The pot of gold at the end of the rainbow was stolen yesterday. Go at once and

see if you can find it. We will follow and help you. Look in the forest first. We will come to you there.

Hermes I shall soon find the pot of gold.
(*Runs quickly out of sight. Iris and Zeus follow.*)

III

TIME: *Morning.*

PLACE: *A forest.*

(*Hermes runs in and searches round and under the trees.*)

Hermes What, the trees are still asleep, and the Sun up fully an hour? I must waken them. The pot of gold I do believe is here. I saw an old man come from this place last night. He has searched for the pot of gold quite all his life. He must have found it yesterday. Some one of these trees is hiding it for him. Wake up, trees! wake up! Wake up! Oak, Maple, Elm, Fir, Pine, Lombardy — wake up!

Oak-tree Who is calling so loudly? Oh, it is Hermes. Wake up, trees, and hear what Hermes has to say.

(Trees wake up slowly, yawning, blinking, and stretching a good deal.)

Hermes Ye trees, listen! Some one has stolen the pot of gold from the end of the rainbow.

Oak-tree Some man did, you may depend upon it.

Hermes That is what I think. Has any one here seen it?

Trees (All speak but Oak-tree.) No, no! Hermes, please go away, we want to sleep. None of us knows where the pot of gold is.

Hermes You must help me find it, so all of you wake up. There, that is better. It was Father Zeus who sent me in search of the pot of gold. He is coming with Iris and will be here soon. She wants her gold back again.

Zeus (Appears with Iris.) Well, Hermes, have you found the pot of gold?

Hermes No, Father Zeus. The trees have not seen it.

Zeus They must be searched.

Iris Oh, Father Zeus, no tree would steal my gold.

Zeus I hope no tree would. But let us see.

Hold your arms above your heads. Why are you all so sleepy, all but Oak-tree? It is morning; day is here. Wake up!

Oak-tree Father Zeus, we know nothing about the pot of gold taken yesterday from the end of the rainbow.

Zeus Well, hold up your arms. If all are innocent I shall soon know.

(The trees obey Zeus. Hermes watches them all.)

Hermes There is the pot of gold, Father Zeus. It fell from under the Lombardy Poplar tree. See how ashamed he looks, and tries to hang his head.

Zeus Alas, Lombardy, that you should have done this thing! I have always thought you a straight and upright tree.

Lombardy Poplar Forgive me, Father Zeus, I know not how this gold came to be with me. I have been, as you say, straight and upright all my life. But that you may know that I hide nothing from the Sun, my King, I shall forevermore stand in this way, my arms held above my head.

The Other Trees Ho, ho, ho! Ha, ha, ha!

See the Lombardy Poplar! he looks like a great umbrella turned inside out. Ho, ho! Ha, ha, ha!

Zeus Do not mind their laughter, Lombardy Poplar. You shall stand forevermore as you stand now. But I feel sure you never took the pot of gold.

Iris I am satisfied of that. You are too fearless and open-hearted, Lombardy Poplar, to have done any such thing.

— An Old Myth (*Adapted*).

THE THREE QUESTIONS

I

TIME: *Late forenoon.*

PLACE: *Nobleman's garden.*

NOBLEMAN. DICK. ROBERT. JACK. MESSENGER.

Messenger (*He is walking past the garden reading a proclamation.*) To all who may care to know: The king will give in marriage the Princess, his beautiful daughter, to that man who can answer rightly three questions she will ask. Let him who thinks he is wise and

would win the Princess' favor, come to the palace without delay.

(He goes away. Dick and Robert run into the garden.)

Robert Did you hear all he said ?

Dick Nearly all.

Robert The Princess is very beautiful.

Dick I heard that. And she will marry the man who answers three questions she puts to him.

Robert What a simple thing that will be to do.

Dick I think so. Here comes father. Let us ask him to tell us more about this matter.

(Nobleman comes along. He is followed at a little distance by Jack.)

Nobleman What interests you so much, my sons ?

Dick We were talking of the Princess.

Nobleman You heard the King's messenger as he went by ?

Dick and Robert Yes, father.

Nobleman Do you think you can answer the three questions the Princess will ask ?

Dick I believe I can.

Robert That will surely be a very simple thing to do.

Nobleman I don't know. Would you like to go to the palace and try for the Princess's favor?

Dick and Robert May we go, father?

Nobleman Yes, you may go. But don't, my sons, think it will be an easy matter to give right answers to the questions the Princess will ask. Remember many witty and learned men will be there. But go along; try fortune if you will. Think carefully, however, before you speak.

Robert Oh, I won't answer hastily! I will think every question over carefully as you have said to do, father. But I know I shall be successful.

Nobleman It is well to feel sure of your ability to win a prize. But beware, my son, of being too boastful.

Dick That's what I should say. He talks as if he knew already that he was to marry the Princess. But let me tell you this, brother, if I am the first to be questioned the Princess will be mine. Don't, however, feel badly.

You shall have a high place at court. When I become king you shall be my prime minister.

Robert Who ever heard such idle boasting? If you answer one question you will be doing well.

Nobleman Boys! Boys! My sons! Cease quarreling. Go take your way in peace to the Princess. Favor be shown unto him who deserves it. And let the other glory in his brother's success.

Jack Father, I am going too. I don't expect to answer the questions the Princess will ask, for I am told her wit is very great, but I want to see and hear the fun. And should one of my brothers win the Princess I would like to be at hand to praise him.

Dick Jack, you make me laugh. You would cut a queer figure at court.

Robert Stay at home, Jack, with father. Everybody will poke fun at you. The Princess would surely want you for her fool.

Nobleman Your brother shall go with you. While every wise man does not make a good fool, a fool wanting wisdom is soon left to beg.

If it should so happen, Jack, that the Princess calls upon you for answers to her questions do not keep silent.

II

TIME: *Afternoon.*

PLACE: *A highway.*

JACK. DICK. ROBERT.

Jack (Speaks as he comes into sight.) I care little that my brothers will not walk with me, and think it pleasant to make me the butt of their fun. Hello! What have we here? Ha, ha, ha! An egg. It is a fine, white egg, and is warm. What a funny hen it must be that lays her egg in the King's highway. Ha, ha, ha! Shall I eat the egg? No, I am not hungry. Ha, ha ha! This is very funny, a hen lays an egg in the King's highway and Jack finds it. Ha, ha, ha!

Robert (Appearing with Dick.) What is the foolish fellow laughing at? I wish we were well rid of him. What is it he has found?

Dick It's an egg. Here, what are you doing with that egg?

Jack Can't you see ? I am holding it in my hand and am looking at it with my eyes.

Robert Where did you get it ?

Jack Found it in the King's highway where the hen laid it.

Dick What are you going to do with it ?

Jack Put it in my pocket. It may be of service to me sometime.

Dick You think it may be ?

Jack Yes.

Dick More than likely it will be broken ; then a pretty mess there will be in your pocket.

Jack (*Picks up a crooked hazel stick.*)
Ha ! Ha ! Ha, ha, ha !

Robert Now what is causing the fool to laugh ?

Dick It must be that crooked hazel stick he is laughing at.

Robert What is funny about that crooked hazel stick ?

Jack Only this, that I should have found it in the King's highway right after I had found an egg. Ho, ho, ho !

Robert Throw the stick away, you idiot.

Jack I am not of a mind to throw it away, brother.

Robert What will you do with it ?

Jack Carry it along with me to the palace. And this nut ! I will take it along to the palace too. Ha, ha, ha ! An egg, a crooked hazel stick, and a nut, all found in the King's highway. And now they are all going to be taken to the King's palace.

Dick To give the Princess, I suppose ?

Jack Ha, ha, ha ! Now what if she should need these very things ? That would be the funniest thing of all. Ha, ha, ha ! Ho, ho, ho ! This egg, and crooked hazel stick, and nut do make me very merry. Perhaps they will make the Princess merry, too.

Dick Come along, brother, leave the idiot to his folly.

Robert Yes, that is best. If we quicken our pace we shall be at the palace before nightfall.

(*They go.*)

Jack Folly. Is it true that my brothers are such wise men ? We shall see. My father's word was, "A fool wanting wisdom is soon left to beg." Ha, ha, ha ! The egg, and crooked hazel stick, and nut shall go to the palace with me.

III

TIME: *Early evening.*

PLACE: *A room in the King's palace.*

PRINCESS. KING. NOBLEMAN. JACK. DICK. ROBERT.
SEVERAL ATTENDANTS.

King Welcome, gentlemen. The Princess will be here presently.

Dick Have very many tried to answer her questions?

King Yes, a great many have tried, but all have failed. Only one person has given two correct answers.

Robert What stupid fellows. Certainly a score or more should have found it easy to answer two questions.

Dick Indeed, I should think so. I know I will not fail to answer them all.

Robert Boasting again, are you? Be well pleased if you answer two questions.

King Not so fast, is my word to you both. My daughter, the Princess, is wondrous clever. It will not surprise me if you fail to answer any of her questions, there have been so many failures. But when your turn comes let each

do his best. My daughter is close at hand. Bestir your wits, gentlemen, there will be much need for doing so.

(The Princess, with several attendants, appears.)

I see a rival coming.

(Jack comes along after the attendants.)

Robert It is Jack.

Dick I thought we might be well rid of him.

King You speak as if the latest comer were a brother.

Robert He is, sire, our brother. But please do not mind what he may do or say. He has no wit ; he is a foolish fellow.

King Nothing in his face shows him to be a fool. Welcome, sir.

Jack Thanks, sire, you are kind to me. Look at all the handsome ladies ! I know you must be the princess.

Dick and Robert Jack, go away from here. The Princess will be driven away by your rudeness.

Jack Oh, nonsense, my brothers ! I say again, these are handsome ladies.

Princess You are right. Do you know we carry fire in our breasts ?

Jack Do you, Princess ? Then roast me this egg I found on the way here.

Princess How will you get it out again ?

Jack With this crooked stick I also found in the way.

Princess But where did the stick come from ?

Jack From a nut like this, which I found lying near the stick. There, Princess, I have answered your questions, now for my reward.

Robert Stop talking in this manner, you foolish fellow.

Princess Don't call him a foolish fellow.

Dick He is right, brother, he answered the Princess very cleverly.

King Indeed that is true. What has my daughter to say ?

Princess Here is my hand, sir.

Jack Oh, I thank you. It is a pretty hand.

King The wedding will be to-morrow. You shall succeed me as king when I die.

Jack May you live for many a year. I am quite contented to be a prince.

King But some day you shall be king. Dick and Robert, go bid your father come to us and we will bless our son and daughter jointly.

Robert My father is here, sire. Oh, sir !

Dick Oh, father !

Nobleman What grieves you, my sons ?

Dick and Robert Our brother, Jack —

Nobleman What of Jack ?

King He is to become our son.

Nobleman Do you mean, sire — ?

Princess He answered all my questions both wittily and readily, so we are to be married to-morrow. Oh, I like him very much already ! No man I have ever met before was half as clever.

Nobleman Jack, my son, I am glad for you.

Jack Thank you, father.

Nobleman Boys, Dick, Robert, tell your brother you are glad he is to marry the Princess, and shake his hand.

Princess Yes, my brothers, do your father's bidding. Here is my hand that you may kiss.

King Come, now that all is so happily concluded, let us go within and make ready for the wedding.

— *Adapted.*

USE YOUR EYES

I

TIME : *Early afternoon.*

PLACE : *Edge of the desert.*

A HOLY MAN.

SEVERAL MERCHANTS.

Merchant What shall we do? We have looked in all directions. The camel is surely lost.

Merchant He was the strongest in the caravan.

Merchant He was indeed, and carried the biggest load.

Merchant It was of much value.

Merchant Yes, no load left will bring us more money.

Merchant Shall we look again?

Merchant Little use; but no harm can come of looking. I am certain, however, the camel will never be found.

Merchant Wait! Who is coming yonder?

Merchant It is a Holy Man.

Merchant We will ask him if he has seen our camel that is lost.

Merchant Oh, Holy Man, we have lost a camel.

Holy Man Was he not blind in his right eye and lame in his left foreleg ?

Merchants Yes, yes ! You have seen him, Holy Man ? You know where he is ?

Holy Man Presently I will answer you. Had not your camel lost a front tooth ?

Merchants He had ! You do know where our camel is ?

Holy Man Wait a little. Was he not loaded with wheat on one side ?

Merchants He was ! But hasten and tell us where he is that we may go after him.

Holy Man Not so fast. On the other side he carried honey.

Merchants He did, he did ! Tell us now where you saw our camel.

Holy Man I have not seen him.

Merchant Stop ! You have seen our camel.

Merchant You must have seen him.

Holy Man I tell you no.

Merchants He lies. Yes. There were the jewels and money ; he has stolen these things. Don't let him get away. Bring him back.

Merchant You must go before the Judge this day. He will have the truth from you.

Holy Man Take me before the Judge; I am not afraid. He will have to ask only a few questions to prove I am innocent.

Merchant Boast all you want to before us, you will not be so ready when you stand in the presence of the Judge. Come along!

II

TIME: *Late afternoon.*

PLACE: *A court of justice.*

JUDGE. A HOLY MAN. SEVERAL MERCHANTS.

Judge (*He is the only one seated.*) Has all been told me?

Merchant All.

Judge I fear, Holy Man, that you are guilty. And I am of the opinion, too, that you have not told all you know about this animal.

Merchant Truly he is a great judge!

Merchant He will let no guilty man escape him.

Merchant Look at him now, considering what to do next.

Merchant He is wise, he will do the right thing.

Merchant What is there to do next but punish the fellow who has stolen what was ours ?

Merchant Be a little patient. This is a just judge, he will deal fairly with every one.

Judge Holy Man, I have a few more questions to ask. If you fail to answer correctly I shall declare you guilty and send you away to be punished.

Holy Man I am waiting to hear your questions.

Judge How did you know the camel was blind in one eye ?

Holy Man Because it had eaten the grass on only one side of the path.

Judge How did you know it was lame in the left leg ?

Holy Man Because I saw that the print of that foot was fainter than any of the others.

Judge How did you know the animal had lost a tooth ?

Merchant He will fail now.

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Holy Man Because wherever it had grazed a small tuft of grass was left untouched in the center of its bite.

Merchant Who would have thought of that ?

Judge But how could you tell with what it was loaded ?

Merchant Now he is caught !

Merchant Yes, surely ! He would not know that unless he had seen the beast.

Holy Man The busy ants on the one side, and the flies on the other, showed me that the camel was loaded with wheat and honey. And more than this, I am certain it has only strayed, as there were no footprints either before or behind it.

Merchant Wonderful ! Wonderful !

Merchant Yes, wonderful.

Merchant We had better be going.

Holy Man Yes, you had better be going before your camel is lost. If you search carefully, using your eyes, you will find him.

Judge Use your eyes. That is good advice ; accept it, merchants, at once. Holy Man, you are free. I am sorry that you were detained in this way.

Holy Man Oh, no matter ! So few who have the gift of good eyes use them.

Judge That is true. But yonder merchants will not be likely to forget the lesson you have taught them this day. — Old Tale (*Adapted*).

THE STONE IN THE ROAD

I

TIME : *Afternoon.*

PLACE : *A roadway.*

VILLAGER.

STRANGER.

Villager That is the rich man's house.

Stranger Is the owner very rich ?

Villager Yes, very rich. I should like to be as rich as he is.

Stranger Is he a miser ?

Villager No.

Stranger What does he do with his money ?

Villager He has spent some to make the town more beautiful. But if he would only give some of it away.

Stranger He can do better than give his money away. Did he plant those trees about your homes ?

Villager Yes.

Stranger Did he have that fine playground made for your children ?

Villager Yes.

Stranger Have I not heard that he gives them picnics and takes them on excursions in summer ?

Villager Yes, he has done these things.

Stranger He gives them a Christmas tree, too, that is loaded down with useful and beautiful presents ?

Villager Yes, once a year.

Stranger That is as often as Christmas comes. I should say your rich man is very good, a kind friend and helpful neighbor.

II

TIME : *Afternoon.*

PLACE : *The same place in roadway.*

RICH MAN. A MAN. FARMER. A WOMAN. BOY.

Rich Man I have placed this great stone in the road to see if any one will remove it. Now I will hide and watch who comes and see what is done.

A Man It was this stone frightened my cow. How does it come to be here? It lies directly in the path. I must go out of my way to pass it, so must everybody. It ought to be moved, but I will not do it. The stone is too heavy for one man to move. I will go and find my cow.

Farmer I cannot drive past this great stone. I shall have to take my wheat to the mill by another way.

A Woman Oh, dear, what a big stone to be left in one's path! I wonder how it comes here? The town ought to remove it at once. I will stop at the Mayor's house as I go along and tell him about the stone.

(Rich Man reappears as woman goes away.)

Rich Man No one seems to think himself able to move the stone. They can complain of its being in their way but that is all they do. Here comes the Miller's boy. He looks tired, poor lad. He is a hard-working fellow and no doubt has reason to be tired. Since early morning he has been busy at the mill. But I will hide again and see if he does anything to the stone.

(Goes out. The Miller's boy comes in.)

Boy Why, look at this great stone directly in the path! It is fast getting dark too. I wonder if I could move the stone out of the way so that nobody may fall over it in the night and be hurt badly. It is a very heavy stone. I moved it a little then. That time it went a little more. Oh! I have moved it over a foot. Now the stone is started it moves quite easily. There, it is in nobody's way now. Why, what is this that was lying under the stone? It is a bag. It is quite heavy too. What can be in it? There is writing on the bag. What does the writing say? "This gold" — Oh! There is gold in the bag. "This gold belongs to the one who moves the stone." My mother shall have this, she will know how to care for it. I will take it to her at once.

Rich Man (Reappears as boy goes away.)
I am glad to have found some one not afraid to do hard things, who is ready, too, to help others. I will see that the Miller's boy always has plenty of work to do and is well rewarded for his labor.

THE CIRCUS

TIME : *Morning.*

PLACE : *A street leading to schoolhouse.*

ROBERT. JAMES. CARL. WALTER. ROGER. JOHN.
HELEN. ELIZABETH. MAUD. GLADYS. ADA.
CARRIE.

Robert (*Runs up to group of boys and girls on their way to school.*) Oh, what do you think ? There is a circus coming to town.

Helen (*And others.*) A circus ! How do you know ? Who told you ?

Robert No one told me, I saw some men pasting posters on a billboard.

Carl What circus is it, Robert ?

Robert Europe and America Consolidated Shows and Unrivalled Menagerie.

Roger My brother saw that circus in New York three weeks ago.

Gladys Did he say it is good, Roger, and is it big ?

Roger Brother said it was very good, and one of the biggest circuses in America.

Walter Do you know when it is coming, Robert ?

Robert The week of May twenty-four.

Ada The parade will be Monday morning. I wonder if our teachers will let us go out to see it? I am going to ask.

Elizabeth We can all ask, and perhaps if they don't say yes we can get excuses from home. I shall, for I want to see the horses; circus horses are always so handsome, and they step off so proudly when the bands are playing.

Maud I love the pretty horses.

Carrie I like to see the men in the cages with the lions and tigers.

James So do I. Once I saw a man who put his head in the mouth of one of the lions.

Ada Oh, that must have been terrible! What if the lion had closed his jaws?

James He would have bitten the man's head off, I guess. But he didn't close them, and I saw the man put his head into the lion's mouth three times.

Helen Why, James, how could you watch him do it?

Carrie That wasn't so very much for James

to do. Last year father took me to the circus, and before we went in to the big tent he took me in to see the side show. There was a woman there, a pretty woman, too, who played with a lot of big pythons.

Maud Big pythons ! Oh, Carrie, how could you watch her play with the disgusting things ?

Walter Why, they are just big snakes, and I've played with snakes. I did down in grandfather's pasture last summer. It was a black —

Helen Stop ! Stop, Walter, don't you see how frightened Ada and Maud are ? We don't want to hear about snakes ; it would be better if there were none.

Several Yes ! Yes !

John Are there going to be lots of camels with this circus, Robert ?

Robert Fifteen, the posters say, and two baby camels.

John Good ! I am going to get my father to take me round to see them especially. I want to ride one. Father did for several weeks one time he was in Africa.

Roger Did he go out on the big desert ?

John The desert of Sahara ?

Roger Yes, that is the one I mean.

John He was on it several days, and down at the southern end he saw a giraffe.

Elizabeth What, a real live giraffe ?

John Yes, he was alive, and when father and the men he was with saw him he was eating leaves from a tree.

Robert There is a giraffe in the menagerie of the circus that is coming. He is the largest one in captivity, and there is a baby giraffe too.

Helen Oh, I want to see it ! I love the animals in the circus, and a baby giraffe must be so funny.

Elizabeth He must be all legs and neck.

Carl That is about all a giraffe is anyway.

Gladys Oh, look at Carl trying to imitate a giraffe. Ha, ha, ha ! (*As the others stop laughing.*) You are funny, Carl, but I know you couldn't fool a giraffe.

Ada Don't you think the monkeys are funny ? I can stand by their cages for ever so long watching their queer actions.

Roger I saw a big ape once, and he was

dressed just like a man, and ate with a knife and fork. This is the way he walked ; and he could ride a bicycle. But he made some dreadful faces that frightened lots of the people. They were like this, and this.

Elizabeth Roger ! Roger, don't ! Make him stop, boys.

Carrie I saw that same ape ; he didn't begin to be as bad as Roger says. He did ever so many things that people can do. Why, he went to bed just like anybody would.

Gladys I should like to see that ape. Are there any apes in the circus, Robert ?

Robert I don't know.

James Are there lots of elephants ?

Robert They advertise twenty big ones and five baby elephants.

James Good ! I want to see them all. Last year father took me over to the grounds to see the tents set up and the menagerie wagons put in place, and the elephants did ever so much of the work. You ought to have seen how easy it was for one elephant to push the big cart that held the great hippopotamus.

John Well, who is going to the circus?

All I am. I am. I am.

Roger I wouldn't miss going to a circus. Father says he has been ever since he was a boy younger than I am, and he means to go as long as he can get there.

Elizabeth What do you like best at a circus, Helen?

Helen I like the animals best.

Elizabeth Do you like the lions and tigers?

Helen I like to see them in their cages, but I don't like to see men in with them the way Carrie does.

Gladys I like the clowns. I like to hear the clown band, and I like the clown with the trained donkey that nobody can ride.

James Don't you like the clown acrobats?

Gladys Yes, pretty well, but I am so afraid when I see acrobats that one of them may get hurt.

James Oh, they know enough, I guess, not to get hurt. I saw a clown acrobat once who jumped over the backs of ten elephants.

Robert That isn't so very much to do, for on one of the posters I saw to-day was a clown

acrobat turning a somersault over twelve elephants, six camels, and five horses.

Carl My, but that is some leap to make !

Helen I know something I hope they have at this circus, and that is zebras.

Carrie So do I hope they have zebras ; I have always wanted to see one.

Robert That is another thing I saw on the posters. There were four zebras harnessed to a cart, and a clown was driving them.

Helen I didn't know a zebra could be driven.

Robert Well, these I saw on the poster were being driven.

Ada I hope there are lots of birds in the menagerie, birds of paradise, and all the birds that one does not see every day.

Maud Don't you like parrots ?

Ada Yes, pretty well, but they are so noisy.

Robert There are some trained hens in the side show, and a parrot that can tell your fortune.

Ada They would be interesting.

John Are there any tight-rope walkers ?

Robert Yes, and slack-rope walkers too.

There is a Japanese, his name is Omitsu, who slides from the top of the tent to the ground on a slack wire.

Elizabeth Oh, I can't understand how he can do it.

Carrie I can't either.

Gladys I could never watch him, I should be sure he would fall.

Robert I guess he knows he won't fall. The Japanese acrobats are very clever. But there is a troop of Arabian acrobats, and they are very clever, too, and ever so strong.

John This is going to be a fine circus.

Maud It is indeed. I am anxious to see it. Are there lots of horses, Robert?

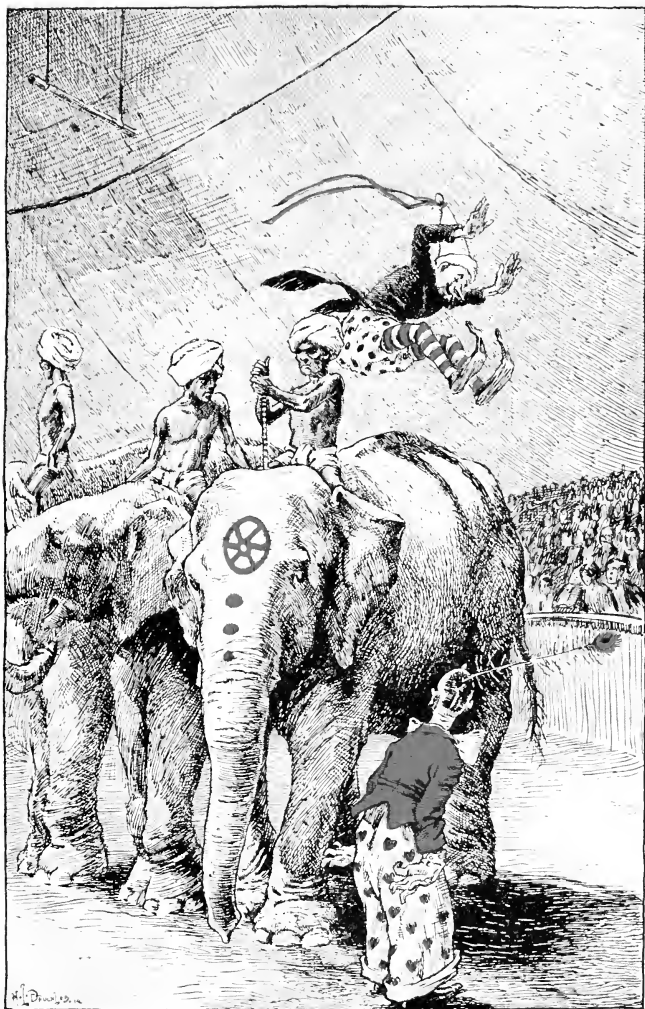
Robert More than five hundred. They all take part in the big street parade, drawing the five band wagons, and the fifty cages of wild animals and birds.

Carl All those things, with the elephants, and camels, and zebras, will make a big parade.

Helen Can't we all go to the circus together?

James That is a fine idea.

Elizabeth Yes, it is. Some of our fathers and



mothers would go with us, and we could all sit together in the big tent.

Ada I think the idea splendid. Could some one get all our tickets so we could be sure of their being together?

John My father would do it. I will tell him what we want to do.

Walter I feel sure our folks will let us go together. Won't we just have the best kind of a time?

Gladys Walter is right. Now if Mr. Brown will only close school long enough on Monday for us to see the parade.

Maud I hope he does, I do so want to see the horses then.

James Well, we can ask our teacher, and when he knows that almost every child in school has asked to be excused at that time, I don't think he will say no.

Robert There's the bell. Race to the school gate, fellows.

The Other Boys All right.

Elizabeth (*As the boys run out.*) James is going to win. Come, girls, I will race you.

(*The girls run out.*)

COLUMBUS

I

TIME: *Afternoon.*

PLACE: *A quay, looking west over the harbor of Genoa.*

CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS. CAPTAIN ANTONIO. FATHER
OF COLUMBUS. A SAILOR. FOUR BOYS. THREE
GIRLS.

First Boy (Comes in with the other boys and the girls. He points at Columbus, who is seated on a bale of goods on the end of the quay.) There he is, the dreamer.

Boys and Girls Dreamer! Dreamer!

Second Boy He doesn't hear us.

First Girl He doesn't want to hear.
Dreamer!

Boys and Girls Dreamer! Dreamer!

Third Boy Oh, come along, Chris, and play with us.

Fourth Boy He doesn't want to play.

Columbus (Hardly glancing at the others.)
No, I don't. Why do you bother me?

Second Girl Why do we bother him? He would rather talk with nasty old sailors, like the two coming this way now.

Third Girl (Columbus shows that he is inter-

ested in the two seamen.) I know who that tall one is, it is Captain Antonio. He has been all over the world.

Columbus All over the known world, you mean.

First Boy That is what you dream about, another world to be discovered.

First Girl That is a queer kind of a dream, as if grown-up people did not know how much there is to the world.

Second Girl As if a mere boy could know anything about a new world if there were such a thing.

Third Boy Oh, come along, and leave him to dreams and his sailors.

Third Girl They laugh at him, the dreamer.

Boys and Girls (*Go away singing.*)

Dreamer, dreamer, wake yourself !

When did dreams come true ?

Dream too long the world, you'll find,

Has forgotten you.

Antonio (*As the boys and girls go out of sight.*) Who is it those little rascals are singing about ?

Sailor Young Christopher Columbus, the lad yonder.

Antonio Yes, yes, I should have thought of him had I known he was near. It is true he dreams, and I fear dreams too much. So many dreamers come to naught.

Sailor They all do. There was —

Antonio (*Lays hand upon Columbus' shoulder and speaks kindly. The boy listens respectfully.*) Ever at thy dreams, lad. Why not at play?

Columbus Good Antonio, there are so many things to think about. If I play, my thoughts are lost.

Antonio Perhaps, perhaps. Yet it may not be so bad if a thought slip past you now and then. At least give over for a time projecting thy gaze into the West. What think you may be there for thee?

Columbus I know not, Antonio, but at times I think there will come a day when I shall find for men a wonderful thing in the West.

Antonio That is thy dream, lad.

Columbus Oh, I believe it, Antonio, as if I had seen it all.

Antonio A dream, a dream. There is not as much to one of these things as to a sea fog.

Sailor Captain Antonio speaks wisely, young master.

Columbus Some dreams don't mean much, I know, but there must be some truth in one that you cannot forget.

Antonio Now that speech was not wanting wisdom.

Columbus My father tells me, Antonio, that you have sailed to all parts of the world.

Antonio As far as there is reason for ship to go. I have been to the shores of the East, to all the shores of the South, and to those of Spain and Portugal.

Columbus Is there nothing beyond Portugal?

Antonio Yes, Britain.

Columbus Beyond that?

Antonio A vast sea, and then the edge of the world.

Columbus Couldn't one, by sailing west, come to India?

Antonio If the world were round, he might; but the world is flat, as everybody knows.

Sailor It surely is, lad. You do not think it round ?

Columbus I do.

Antonio Stay, lad ! Where is your common sense ? If this world were round, no man could stand upon it ; we should all fall off. No, the world is flat ; if you sailed out beyond Britain, you would come to the edge of it.

Columbus I don't think so, Antonio. What I believe is, that if vessels were sailed due west they would come in a short time to India.

Antonio Too much dreaming hath been bad for thee, lad. Here is thy father. I would counsel thee to give thy son instruction to mend the falsehood of his dreams.

Father How now, boy, what hath been said ?

Columbus Antonio, Bernardo, and I were talking about the shape of the world. They say it is flat.

Father They speak the truth. Come home with me.

Columbus (*Going with his father. Antonio and Bernardo go in opposite directions.*) I

know what is said, that the world is flat. But I can think my thoughts, and what I think is that the world is round.

II

TIME: *Afternoon.*

PLACE: *The Court of King Ferdinand. Queen Isabella.*

COLUMBUS. KING FERDINAND. QUEEN ISABELLA.

SEVERAL NOBLES. SEVERAL LADIES. .

Isabella This letter from the learned prior gives a favorable impression, my lord.

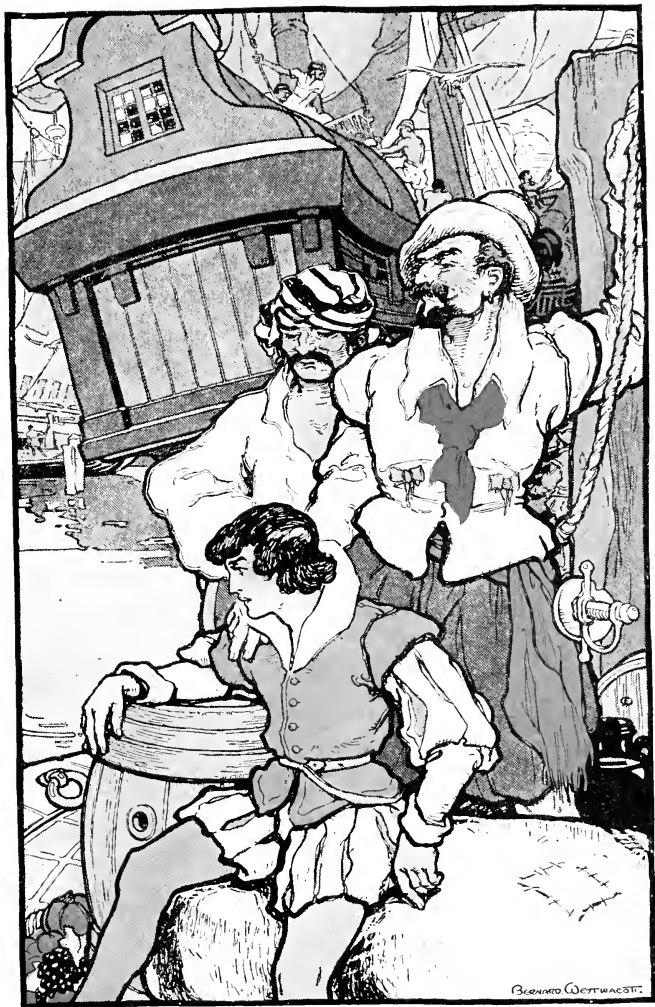
Ferdinand It certainly expresses great belief in Columbus. But, my dear queen, Spain cannot afford the money for this undertaking.

Columbus I have waited eighteen long years, noble sovereigns, for the chance to prove that by sailing west India will be reached. Unless I am helped by you I will go to the king of France, and Spain will lose much glory, and great riches.

First Noble Why do you give this man further audience, sire? He is but a dreamer.

Several Ladies That is quite true, dear queen. It is what everybody says of him.

First Lady You know if one kept on sailing



he would come to the edge of the world, and then if he were not careful he would fall off.

Isabella I am not so sure that he would fall off. At least it might be well to find the edge of the world. Has it ever been done, my lord?

Ferdinand I can't tell you. Columbus, who has gone to the edge of the world?

Columbus No one, your majesty. The world is without edge, it is round.

Several Nobles Impossible! Impossible! The world is flat.

Second Noble Who can go about head downward? That is what the people on the other side of the earth would have to do.

Third Noble Yes. Could trees grow with their branches downward? Oh, sire, and gracious queen, it would not be possible.

Ferdinand I had thought of these things. But we have to consider the letter of this very learned prior, who says to send Columbus on this journey.

Fourth Noble The prior might be mistaken.

Isabella He is very learned, nor is he one who forms his judgments hastily.

Second Lady It is true that he possesses great

wisdom, but ought life and riches to be ventured on the word of a dreamer ?

Isabella All the facts must be carefully weighed that no mistake shall be made. Spain may profit, or she may lose, for I am convinced that Columbus has done more than dream, he has looked with eyes open into the future.

Fifth Noble Your majesty, should a ship succeed in reaching India, by sailing west, it would never be able to return, for the roundness of the earth would form a kind of mountain up which it would be impossible to sail.

Several Nobles and Ladies That cannot be denied.

Columbus I promise that any ships you may give me shall be returned to you safely, and richly laden.

Many Ha, ha, ha ! Ha, ha, ha !

Sixth Noble Promises are easily made, but not so easily kept.

Columbus I will do as I have said.

Several Nobles You know the thing can't be done.

Columbus Furnish me with the ships and I will prove that it can be done.

Third Lady When we all know that the world is flat, that the thing Columbus would do is impossible, why do we listen to him further?

Ferdinand It is time we stopped listening. Columbus, we are sorry to have to send you away, but Spain has no money with which to buy the ships you need.

Columbus I submit to your will, your majesty. But I had hoped Spain's sovereigns might be the ones to profit by the great discovery that one day is sure to be made.

Isabella We shall profit by it! Spain is not to be robbed of any glory or rich reward in this way. My jewels shall be pledged, that you, Columbus, may have the money and ships you need.

Columbus Gracious, generous majesty, accept my thanks, they come from a full heart. You will not regret this act.

Ferdinand I fear you are rash in saying what you have, my queen. But we will consider the matter more apart. Columbus, when we are ready, we will send for you.

Isabella I shall keep my word. Be of good courage, patient man.

(*King and queen go out attended by a few nobles and ladies. Columbus goes out another way alone.*)

Ladies Well !

First Noble Never was a madder promise made.

Second Noble No good thing will come of it.

Third Lady She has been influenced by the letter of the learned prior.

Fifth Noble Perhaps, but the king may persuade her to change her mind.

Fourth Noble You know little of our queen.

III

TIME : *Morning, October 12, 1492.*

PLACE : *The beach at San Salvador.*

COLUMBUS. THE PINZON BROTHERS. SEVERAL SAILORS.
SEVERAL NATIVES.

First Native (*Runs in, meeting several others.*)
See what have come up out of the ocean.

Several Is it those things ?

First Native Yes.

Several Are they birds ?

Several Are they spirits? They move.

First Native Yes, they move.

Second Native They move this way, they are coming to our shore.

Third Native What if they should be neither birds nor spirits, but evil monsters come to devour us all?

First Native We will run and hide ourselves. By keeping still we may not be found.

Several Good advice.

First Native Let us make haste to get out of danger.

(They run away swiftly.)

Columbus (Enters from opposite direction with the Pinzon brothers and several sailors. In his hand he carries the standard of Spain.) We will halt here. *(He kneels as do the others.)* It is right that first we thank God for guidance and care. It is he who hath brought us safely to these shores, and it is he who will guide us safely home again. *(All are silent, faces uplifted. Many of the natives peer with interest from their places of hiding. Columbus rises, and immediately the others follow.)* I take possession of this land in the

name of King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella.

First Brother The island should have a name ; it seems a goodly place.

Columbus I name it San Salvador.

Second Brother May San Salvador add greatly to the wealth of Spain.

Columbus It will do its part, but her greatest wealth will come from India itself. This is but one of the islands of the coast of Asia mentioned by Marco Polo.

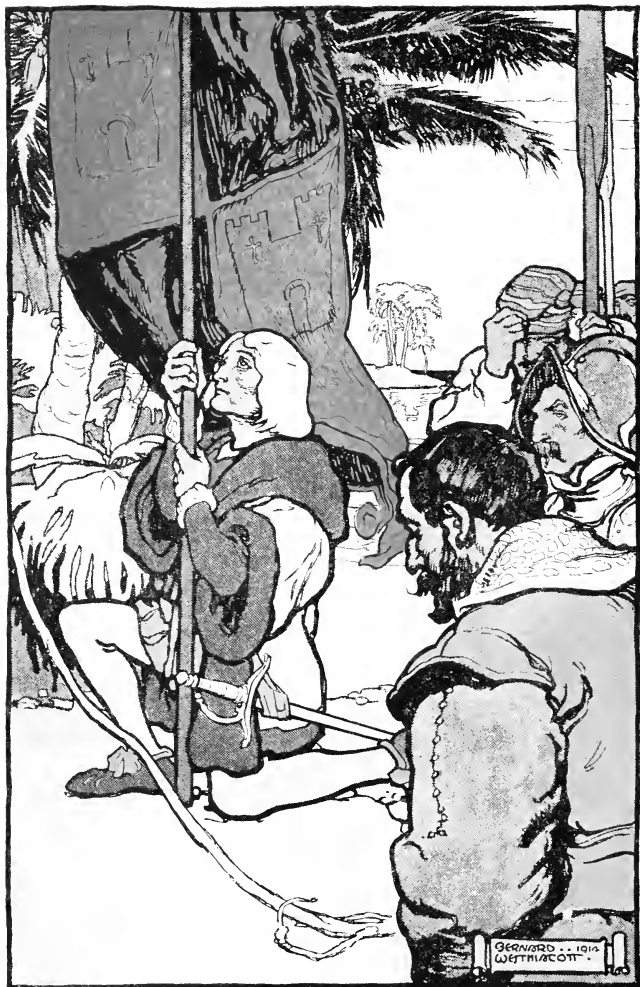
First Brother It must be as you say, Columbus. But see who are here.

(Several of the natives have come out of their hiding places and ventured forward.)

Columbus These must be natives of the island, and of course are Indians, for are we not in India ?

Second Brother Yes, surely. See the gifts they have for us.

Columbus They mean to be friendly. Come nearer. *(The natives come and lay down their gifts.)* We accept these gifts for our king and queen. The Spanish people will be your friends. They would show us more of their



GERNARD ... 1912
WETHELSCOTT

island. We will go with them. Lead the way, we will follow you. (*As they are following the natives out.*) Will people believe me when this thing is told them?

First Brother They certainly must.

Columbus I have never doubted, I have suffered long, and been patient. To-day has come my reward; I know now that the world is round.

THE PILGRIMS

I

TIME: *Day.*

PLACE: *The Rock at Plymouth, Massachusetts.*

CARVER. STANDISH. BRADFORD. WINSLOW. HOW-
LAND. HOPKINS. WARREN. ENGLISH. SIX SAILORS.

(*All are in a long boat. English is steering; the sailors are rowing. At the same time the Pilgrims are singing.*)

Pilgrims (*Sing clearly and earnestly.*)

We have braved the scorn of men,
Faced the raging ocean when
But for God's protecting care
Death had followed our despair.

We have felt within each breast
Pain, and terror, and unrest ;
Thought of failure, — God was near,
From our hearts removed all fear,
Brought us to this welcome shore,
Free from doubts forevermore.

Several Pilgrims What do you see, Howland ?

Howland (*Standing up in the boat's bow.*)

I see cleared fields and a river.

Several Shall we land ?

Carver We will land and explore.

Howland There is a rock just ahead on
which we may step dry-shod.

English Lay her by it, men.

Hopkins Do thou jump, John Howland.
(*Howland jumps. Boat is made fast.*) Well
done !

Howland I seize this land for King James !

Carver Is not this place laid down on Cap-
tain John Smith's map, friend Winslow ?

Winslow It appears to be the place he hath
called Plymouth, after our English town.

(*Warren walks away.*)

Carver It would be well to keep the name

should we remain here. What do you advise, friend Bradford?

Bradford Keep it by all means; it would be a fitting thing to do.

Warren (*Returns.*) I have discovered there is enough cleared land for every man's crops.

Carver You sense these matters quickly.

Hopkins It is too far to fetch wood.

Winslow We can't have land to plant on, friend Hopkins, and wood growing in the same spot.

Carver True. Now let us explore more fully.

Winslow Yes; let us seek for water, for without that the land is worth little.

Bradford I should say from sounds I hear that there must be springs yonder.

Carver From that hill we should see much. Captain Standish hath had his eye on it for some time.

Standish I would like to see a fort set there.

Hopkins We should plan for our dwellings before we think of forts and strife.

Standish Yet our first duty is to defend our women and children.

Bradford We could not build our dwellings in that spot.

Standish They do not have to be placed by the fort. It were better to build them by the rock on which we landed.

Bradford The captain is right, build near the rock and the springs; our women and children must not be asked to climb this hill.

Carver Thou shalt have thy fort there, Captain.

Standish Thank you, governor. My mind will be more at ease when it is completed, for I feel that the safety of the women and children should be our first care.

Carver Now let us go back and tell those waiting of this kindly land.

Pilgrims (*Go out singing.*)

We have found a kindly land,
Fields and forests to our hand,
Streams of water cool and sweet,
Many good things found to eat.
On these shores we'll make our home,
Cease forevermore to roam,
Cause this wilderness to grow,
Much of worth from it to flow.

II

TIME : *Forenoon.*

PLACE : *Plymouth settlement.*

STANDISH. BREWSTER. ALLERTON. CARVER. BRAD-
FORD. WINSLOW. BILLINGTON. OTHER PILGRIMS.
MISTRESS BILLINGTON. MASSASOIT. SAMOSET.

(Pilgrims, gathered in Common House, are listening to Standish.)

Winslow It is not a great army.

Standish No, but nineteen honest, earnest men can do effective work. Then we have the elder for reserve.

Carver You give us good courage, Captain Standish.

Bradford Hark ! What is happening outside ?

Mistress Billington Scat ! Foul beast. Scat ! Begone ! Begone, I say, or —

Brewster Do thou warn thy wife, Billington, against so much unseemly brawling.

Billington Yes, elder, at — Look !

(Samoset, face painted, three feathers in hair, hatchet in belt, carries long bow and two arrows, stands in doorway.)

Samoset Welcome !

Allerton An Indian —

Bradford And speaks English.

Standish (*In low voice.*) Ready, men, he may mean treachery.

Carver (*Gives hand to Samoset.*) Thank you, friend. How know you our language ?

Samoset I am Samoset ; Englishman's friend ; come to say welcome.

Brewster He seems a man of some dignity.

Standish One of great strength he looks to be.

Samoset Samoset sachem of Monhegan. Do well to many Englishmen.

Carver Is this place Monhegan, friend Samoset ?

Samoset This Patuxet, Monhegan nearer sunrise.

Carver How far from here ?

Samoset Suppose walk, five days ; big wind in ship, one day.

Bradford Didst thou walk ?

Samoset Came ship, three or four moons ago.

Brewster Thou are most welcome here, friend.

Standish He is a man, he might care for food and drink.

Brewster John Alden, do thou see to this.

Samoset Eat when great chief come.

Carver (*Pilgrims startled, Standish stands ready.*) You are not alone?

Samoset Massasoit, sachem all this region, would make peace with Englishman. Wait in woods with sixty braves.

Carver Master Winslow will go meet Massasoit. Captain Standish and his soldiers will conduct the great sachem hither.

(*Carver, Bradford, and Brewster remain.*)

Bradford Will Samoset prove treacherous?

Carver Hardly, I think. His speech was friendly.

Brewster God has not yet denied us anything that was right and good for us to have.

Bradford I hear the soldiers coming back with the Indians.

Carver The chief shall sit here by me. Stand by, elder.

(*Trumpet and drum heard. Massasoit, his followers, and Samoset are ushered in.*)

Carver greets Massasoit, leads him to seat.

Standish and soldiers posted close at hand.)

Massasoit Englishman is welcome. May there be peace between us.

Carver Thank you. My king, James the first of England, salutes you through me. He desires peace.

Massasoit Massasoit make peace. Promise no hurt Englishman. No take what is his. Help Englishman in fight. His friends Englishman's friends. Give Englishman plenty land. His forever.

Carver (*Stands. Chief stands.*) I thank you for my king. May our peace never be broken.

Massasoit Indian keep peace forever.

III

TIME: *Early forenoon.*

PLACE: *A sunny glade containing a spring.*

PRISCILLA. MARY CHILTON. ELIZABETH TILLEY.
TWO YOUNG GIRLS.

(*Priscilla, by the spring singing, sprinkling a piece of new linen.*)

Priscilla

Spring came, — Oh, the joy of Spring!
Gayly did the glad birds sing.

Grasses through the soft mold broke,
Sleeping buds and blossoms woke.
Never such a holiday
As we knew that first of May.

Summer came, — Oh, world of bloom !
Every singer then in tune,
All the fields with promise rife.
Little did we know of strife
When the vast procession stood
Waiting June in veil and hood.

Autumn's here, — soon Winter's cold
Earth in its stern clasp will hold.
But who cares ? Let Winter bind ;
Spring is waiting, Spring is kind.
Presently she will appear,
Skies to crown her bright and clear.

Mary Chilton (*Runs in, embracing Priscilla ;
two young girls follow, quite excited.*) Thou
hast a song for all occasions.

Priscilla (*Working.*) More than my song
has brought thee and these two maidens
here, Mary Chilton. Thy bright eyes say
so. Tell me your news. But no gossip ; I

warn you my ears are not open for such matter.

Two Young Girls Oh, it is not gossip ! Is it, Mary ?

Mary No, Priscilla, no ; truth, every word.

Priscilla Help me with this linen, Mary. There ! Now thy news.

Two Young Girls Oh, it is rare good news, Priscilla.

Mary Indeed, Pris, it is.

Priscilla Thy tongue is not slow to unwind itself. Begin, for there is the noon meal to look after.

Mary Well —

Two Young Girls The governor —

Mary Hath resolved upon three days' feasting and thanksgiving, beginning next Thursday. Think of it, Pris, three holidays with feasting.

Priscilla Welcome to the holidays ! But who will prepare the feast ?

Mary The women.

Two Young Girls All the women will help.

Mary But certain dishes to be perfect require your special care.

Two Young Girls Yes, Priscilla.

Priscilla You are three unblushing flatterers.
As if only I could cook !

Mary We spoke only what is true.

Priscilla How can more and harder cooking
make a sprightly holiday ?

Mary We will be doing for others.

Priscilla (*Embraces Mary suddenly.*) I am
selfish ; I had forgotten the others.

Mary Selfish, Pris ? No. No one could
accuse you of selfishness.

Two Young Girls Here comes Elizabeth Tilley.

Elizabeth Mistress Brewster sent me to bid
you come at once.

Priscilla We will come.

Elizabeth Has Mary told you the news ?

Priscilla Yes.

Elizabeth Who the guests will be ?

Two Young Girls Guests ?

Elizabeth Yes. Massasoit, his brothers, and
chief men will be asked. Squanto has gone
with the invitation.

Priscilla (*As they go out.*) I see ; we are
to return thanks for God's goodness. It will
be our first Thanksgiving feast.

IV

TIME: *Midday.*

PLACE: *Plymouth, Massachusetts Bay Colony.*

PILGRIM MEN. PILGRIM WOMEN. INDIAN CHIEFS.
OTHER INDIANS.

(A long table is spread outside the Common House. Pilgrims, the older women, and Indians are seated. Priscilla, other young women, and some of the young men serve those at table.)

Pilgrims (Stop eating; all are silent for a moment, then sing heartily) —

God hath showered blessings down,
Open-handed gifts hath poured.
Harvest fields were ne'er so blessed,
All he gave that crowds our board.
Every voice his praise should sing,
Glad thanksgiving send on high.
We have labored, but reward
Was vouchsafed us from the sky.

(All rise and stand in an attitude of prayer and then slowly repeat the first two lines of the song.)

HALLOWE'EN

I

TIME: *Evening.*PLACE: *A Street.*

JOHN. MORTON. ARTHUR. PETER. CHARLES. HENRY.
FANNY. SARAH. AGNES. BARBARA. CLARA. NELL.
OTHER BOYS AND GIRLS.

*(The boys come in from different directions.
Each one carries a jack-o'-lantern.)*

John What have you been doing?

Morton I rang six doorbells, and it was lots of fun to see the people come and find no one there.

Arthur Oh, I hung a great cabbage on Deacon Howells' door. You know he hates cabbage.

The Others Yes! Yes!

Peter We must have some more fun.

Charles Shall we change a lot of gates?

Peter Yes, and some signs.

Henry That would be fine sport. But I wonder where the girls are?

Arthur Are they coming out?

Henry Nell said she was.

John We must plan a way to frighten them.

Peter Oh, that will be the best kind of fun.

I wonder where they were. Do you know, Henry ?

Henry I don't. I did not ask, and Nell did not say where they were going.

Charles We must watch for them. But let us do something besides watch. I tell you what would be comical.

The Others What ? Tell us quick.

Charles You know the sign that has just been put up at Greenlaw's stable ?

John You mean the one that reads: "A fresh lot of Western horses just received, all in fine condition. Sale on the premises. Begins to-morrow."

Charles Yes.

Several What do you want us to do ?

Peter I've guessed. You want us to take it over to Holmes' market ?

Charles Yes, and fit it over the door.

Several That would be just great ! Holmes would be hopping mad. He never sells anything but the very best meats.

Morton Mr. Greenlaw wouldn't care. He'd be almost willing to help us.

Peter If Holmes ever found out —

John We'd all catch it. Shall we do it ?

Charles Yes. I'm not afraid.

The Others Nor I ! Nor I ! Nor I !

Morton Can't we change some gates on the way ?

Arthur Of course we can. But where are the girls ? You are sure they are coming out, Henry ?

Henry All I know about it is what Nell said.

Peter They will come. My sister said she was going over to your house, and I think she was trying hard to keep a secret.

Morton We must give the girls a scare. That will be more fun than anything else. Now, what will we do ?

John Listen ! Cover your lanterns, boys. I —

The Others (*In a half whisper.*) Did you hear something ?

John (*Speaks low.*) Yes. There it is. It — it may be the wind.

The Girls (*Concealed.*) Oooooo — ooo — oo. Oo ! Oo ! Oo !

Arthur That is not the wind. I wonder what it can be ?

Morton Perhaps — listen !

The Girls Oo ! Oooooo ! Oooooo !

Henry Morton's afraid.

Morton I'm not, either. I'm no more afraid than you are.

Charles He is afraid ; he's trembling.

Morton You're trembling, too, and so is Peter ; you can hear his teeth chatter.

John Oh, Peter !

Several Oh, Peter !

John I thought better of you.

Peter I am not one bit afraid.

Arthur Yes, you are.

The Girls (*They appear as witchlike figures, made tall by each having a jack-o'-lantern fixed on her head. The eyes are made to show different colored lights.*) Oo ! Oo !
Oo ! Oooo ! Oooooooooo !

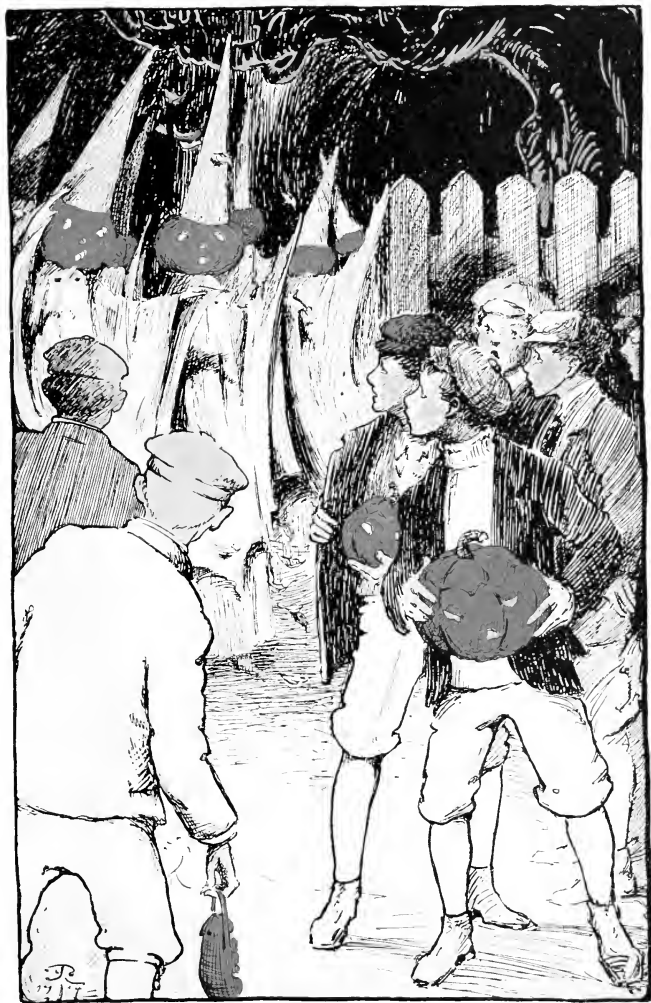
Morton See !

The Others Oh ! Wha — what can it be ?

Henry There's another, and another. I don't like the looks of them.

Two or Three Boys We don't either.

John It may be some of the big boys come to frighten us.



Morton Some of them are just mean enough to do it.

Charles Don't you think —

John There are two more. They are creeping up to us. (*The six girls make threatening moves.*) It is some of the big fellows. They will be rough with us.

Morton Yes. Don't let us stay here.

Peter Why don't we run ?

Charles I am going to run. Those fellows are all ready to rush on us.

John Come on ! Follow me.

(*The boys run out. The girls watch them, laughing, removing the lanterns from their heads.*)

Fanny Sarah, you mustn't laugh so.

Sarah Oh, — Oh ! I can't help it.

The Others Nor I. Oh ! Oh ! Oh !

Agnes O, dear ! I should think they were frightened for their lives.

Barbara Yes, so should I.

Clara Think of it, — they were going to frighten us.

All the Girls Ha, ha, ha, ha, ha ! They were going to frighten us.

Agnes Yes, and they were going to change signs and gates, and do lots of things that they call having fun.

Nell I said that we could scare them as easy as anything.

Barbara Shall we tell them ?

Clara Not right away. Wait a bit before we mention it. Some day we will hear them boasting of what they can do, then it will be time to let them know that it was not the big boys, but just us girls, who gave them a great fright.

Fanny Yes, and sent them running away like deer.

Sarah Running as if for their lives. Oh ! Oh ! Oh ! It was too funny. I never knew my brother, Peter, to run as fast as he did.

Nell They will want to be good to us when they know what frightened them.

Fanny I guess they will. Come, let's try to find them again.

Barbara Shall we give them another scare ?

Several Yes ! Yes !

All (*Going out.*) Ooooooooo ! Oooooo !
Oo ! Oo ! Oo !

II

TIME: *Evening.*

PLACE: *The library at Henry's house.*

MR. AND MRS. BOLTON. SIX BOYS. SIX GIRLS.

(The girls stand just outside the library door, listening.)

Clara Are the boys there?

Nell Yes, I heard Henry's voice. Father is talking to them, and mother is there too.

Fanny Do you dare go in?

Nell Of course I do. We will all go in. Likely father is telling something interesting about Hallowe'en.

(Inside the library Mr. and Mrs. Bolton seated, the six boys gathered about them.)

Mrs. Bolton I can hardly think it was big boys who frightened you.

Mr. Bolton No, I don't believe the big boys had anything to do with it.

Henry Who could it have been, father?

Mr. Bolton Oh, it may have been —

Mrs. Bolton Some youngsters a little more clever than you are.

Henry You are smiling, mother. You know? Was it the girls?

Mrs. Bolton Better ask them.

The Boys They wouldn't tell us.

Mrs. Bolton I can't say. But now Mr. Bolton is going to tell you something about Hallowe'en. You want to hear what he has to say, don't you?

The Boys Yes, of course we —

Henry (*Sees the girls entering, all disguises left off.*) Here are the girls! Now we'll ask them —

Mrs. Bolton To come and hear about Hallowe'en, too. Come, girls, I know you want to hear about Hallowe'en as well as the boys.

The Girls Yes, indeed, we should love to hear all about it.

Barbara Is Hallowe'en very old, Mr. Bolton?

Mr. Bolton The Romans observed the day.

John Did they ring door bells —

Peter And unhinge gates —

Morton And change signs —

Nell And play they were witches —

Sarah And elves ?

Mr. Bolton I am sure Hallowe'en was not celebrated in the time of the Romans as it is to-day. It was a festival day to them. They made a great feast to Pomona.

Nell Who was she, father ?

Mr. Bolton The goddess of fruits and seeds.

Charles Is that why we have nuts and apples at a Hallowe'en party, Mr. Bolton ?

Mr. Bolton Yes, it is quite likely our use of nuts and fruits on Hallowe'en did come from this festival of the Romans.

Fanny Did any other people observe the day, Mr. Bolton ?

Mr. Bolton The Druids made it a great Autumn festival to the Sun. They lighted huge bonfires everywhere.

Several Boys That must have been fun.

Girls It must have looked pretty to see all those fires burning.

Barbara I wish it were done here now.

Charles Where did the Druids live, Mr. Bolton ?

Mr. Bolton A good many lived in the countries we now know as England and Ireland.

Barbara Are not lots of strange things supposed to happen on Hallowe'en eve and Hallowe'en night ?

Mr. Bolton Yes, Barbara. Folks in old times believed that witches and elves, and even devils, went about then doing lots of harm and mischief.

Barbara But no one believes these things now ?

Mrs. Bolton There are mischievous elves about at this very time, enough to keep most of us guessing what is likely to happen next.

Henry How about witches, Nell ?

Nell Witches ?

The Other Boys Make her tell the truth, Henry.

Nell Oh, we don't care if you do know it was we who frightened you, do we, girls ?

The Other Girls No, we don't care. We gave you boys one big scare.

The Boys Oh —

Mrs. Bolton Best admit that the girls were more clever than you this time.

The Boys Yes, girls, we do admit that this time you were more clever than we thought of

being. Thank you, Mr. Bolton, for telling us about Hallowe'en.

The Girls We thank you, too, Mr. Bolton.

CHRISTMAS

TIME: *Evening.*

PLACE: *A large room. In the center stands a tree prettily decorated.*

SEVEN BOYS.

SEVEN GIRLS.

All (Come marching in, singing.)

Christmas Day's the best of days,
Bringing joy and cheer ;
Not a day to equal it
Throughout all the year.

Glad bells ring, glad songs we sing,
Praises for this day
When we all shall merry be,
As we laugh and play.

Edward I am glad we had to learn that song.

Emma So am I, even if it was hard work.

Harold The more we practice the easier it will be to learn songs.

Helen I am going to learn a lot for next Christmas. It is such fun singing.

Several Yes, it is.

Emma How splendid it must be to have plenty of money so that you can just go about at Christmas time making poor people comfortable and happy.

Harold And then rich people must have splendid things given to them, too.

Emma They probably do, but we should like best to be the givers. There is a great deal more pleasure in giving than in getting presents.

Harold Oh, I don't think it is best just to give.

Emma Did you ever try? If you haven't, you had better not say what you think is best.

Helen Sometimes I feel as if I should like everybody in the world to be happy.

Carl I think it would be nice if we could know that every one in the world was happy.

Several Oh, wouldn't it be nice?

Kate There must be lots of people who are

not happy. I think we ought to do all we can to bring happiness to those people.

Several Yes, we do, too.

Samuel Isn't right now the time to begin? My father says, "If you spend all your time talking about a thing, nothing will get done."

Rachel There's a little verse that says:—

Do every day the work that waits,
Each task begun see through,
Then you will find the clouds soon fade,
Leaving the sun and blue.

Andrew That is good, Rachel, but I agree with Samuel and his father, and think that we ought to do something to make others happy this present Christmas season.

Florence What do you think we ought to do, Andrew?

Andrew Find where there are some boys and girls who won't have much to make them happy this Christmas, and give them all the goodies that are on this tree.

Elizabeth I have three dollies; I will give away two of them.

Several Good for Elizabeth.

Chester I know what I will do. I have an extra ball and bat —

Richard You won't give a ball and bat away ?

Chester Indeed, I will !

Andrew I have a new ball that I will give away.

Samuel I have a dollar that I can spend for anything I please. I am going to buy four pairs of warm mittens with it.

Emma Come, girls, we must not let the boys do all the giving. I am sure that we can find just as many things to give, and I know we shall be happier for it.

Kate I think I know how that is, for every time I do anything for anybody that makes that person happy, or give something that makes another glad, I feel twice as good over it as he does.

Helen . Well, shall we try this Christmas Eve to make some other boys and girls happy ?

The Others Yes ! Yes ! Yes !

Florence We must ask our mothers and fathers to tell us where to send our gifts.



Andrew I think they would like it best if we did not ask them, but found out for ourselves who had most need of the things we have to give.

Samuel I think Andrew is right.

Elizabeth I am sure he is.

Florence I am willing to do as the others agree to do.

Chester Shall we tell our mothers and fathers about our plan ?

The Others No.

Carl Now that is settled, let us light the tree.

Edward While we are doing it can't we sing that old Christmas song ?

Several (*Lighting the tree.*) Oh yes ! That old song from "The Sketch Book."

Rachel Start it, Edward, for you know it best.

Edward (*Sings with earnestness.*)

Lo, now is come our joyful'st feast
Let every man be jolly,
Each room with ivory leaves is drest,
And every post with holly.

All (*Joining hands and dancing.*)

Now all our neighbors' chimneys smoke,
And Christmas blocks are burning;
Their ovens they with bak't meats choke,
And all their spits are turning.

Edward

Without the door let sorrow lie,
And if, for cold it hap to die,
We'll bury't in a Christmas pie,
And evermore be merry.

All

Without the door let sorrow lie,
And if, for cold it hap to die,
We'll bury't in a Christmas pie,
And evermore be merry.

Kate I think it would be nice if a lot of boys and girls who won't have a Christmas tree could see this one.

Chester I do, too.

Harold That is just what I was thinking.

Emma I will tell you what I propose.

Several What do you propose, Emma?

Emma That we have our fun to-night.

Then to-morrow let us put all the things on the tree that we mean to give away. We will get all our things together to-morrow morning. When we know how many gifts we can make, we will ask the boys and girls who we know won't have a Christmas tree, and perhaps not any presents, to come here.

Andrew That will be just fine !

Samuel Indeed, it will.

Helen It will be splendid. Emma, you are so clever about thinking of pleasant things to do.

Several Yes, she is.

Carl I think it would be nice if we could have something to offer to eat.

Elizabeth Leave that to us girls.

Carl But we want to help.

Other Boys Yes, we want to help.

Elizabeth Well, you shall help.

Carl What can we give these boys and girls to eat ?

Elizabeth Nice sandwiches.

Kate Yes ; and we can give them cocoa.

Carl That's the very thing ! Sandwiches and hot cocoa, and plenty of each.

Helen Yes, and a present for everyone.

Florence Oh, and candy ! There will be candy ?

Elizabeth There will be candy, of course. I am going to give half of mine.

Florence And cake !

Elizabeth Of course, there will be all kinds of cake.

Florence I shall give up half of mine.

Several We all will ; and can't we think of some games for them to play ?

Rachel I wish it were to-morrow night, I want to see how happy those boys and girls will be.

Emma To-morrow night will soon come we shall be so busy.

Rachel Oh, I suppose it will. I know I shan't sleep much to-night.

Several What shall we do now ? It isn't nearly bedtime yet.

Kate We have one more song to sing.

Samuel Is it that one Miss Bass taught us about the fir tree ?

Kate Yes.

Samuel That is a good song.

Several It is a fine song.

All (*Singing it with careful inflection.*)

Once there stood within a wood
A little tree.

“Oh, dear,” it said, “I’m so small !
Who’ll notice me ?”

Green coat it wore, yet for that
It did not care.

All things but itself it felt
Were good and fair.

Weeks, months went by ; years went by.

There came that way
Children. “Here’s the tree we want
For Christmas Day.”

Joyfully they bore it home
And made it fine.

Lights it wore, and garlands gay
Did it entwine.

Wonder filled the little tree,
Why had his name
From obscurity been drawn
And raised to fame ?

Soon he knew the reason why,
Song made it clear,
Christmastide was drawing nigh,
Yuletide so dear.

WELCOMING THE NEW YEAR

TIME: *Evening.*PLACE: *A large room.*

THE OLD YEAR. THE NEW YEAR. WINTER, attended by
DECEMBER, JANUARY, FEBRUARY. SPRING, attended by
MARCH, APRIL, MAY. SUMMER, attended by JUNE,
JULY, AUGUST. AUTUMN, attended by SEPTEMBER,
OCTOBER, NOVEMBER. SEVERAL BOYS AND GIRLS.

The Old Year (*Alone, with a slender traveling case near him, and carrying a large ledger under one arm.*) Why, isn't he here? (*Shouting heard.*) At last.

Voices (*Outside.*) All hail the New Year.
Hail! Hail! Hail!

Old Year That's the way they welcomed me just twelve months since. I thought them sincere. I thought it all very fine. (*Looking out a window.*) I met them just as he is doing, smiling. (*Moving away from window slowly.*) Alas! I am forgotten. He little knows how soon it will be before they forget him.

The New Year (*Several usher him in.*) I thank you, friends. We must be friends.

Several Oh, we shall be the best of friends.



First Boy We shall all love you.

First Girl Love you ! Oh, yes indeed, we shall love you.

Several (*Old Year approaches New.*) Keep away, old man, you are not wanted here.

Old Year I know quite well that I am not wanted here. I am going soon, but first I must speak to this young fellow.

New Year Young fellow !

The Others Young fellow ! Why, this is —

Old Year I know very well who he is.

New Year Well, old fellow, have your say, but be brief.

Old Year I am forced to be brief, for my time is almost up. You stand here without a thought of the days to come.

New Year Why should I give them thought ? I am happy now, if troubles come, why —

Old Year Troubles will come quickly enough. You will go out as I am going, sorry for many things.

New Year Old man, pardon me, but I don't believe one word you say.

Several Do let him go ; he is just a bore, a horrid, stupid thing.

Old Year (*Gives to surprised New Year the ledger.*) Young fellow, this I give to you.

New Year Why —

Old Year It is a record of all that has happened during my stay here, good and bad. You will profit by reading it carefully. Good night. I think the clock is about to strike. Good night to all. I hope you have been helped by many of the experiences we have had together.

New Year Here, old man, I don't want your book. It smells musty, as if it were old and stale. Take it! Why, he has gone.

(*A clock outside strikes twelve, New Year listening.*)

Several Gone? Yes. What do you care?

New Year Oh, nothing, nothing. Some one take away this horrid-smelling book. There can't be anything in it but dead things. Thank you. Hark!

(*Shouting outside.*)

Voices (*Outside.*) We come with welcome for the New Year.

Several That is you.

New Year Yes, friends, they mean me.

Voices (Outside.) Happy New Year!
Happy New Year!

Several How glad they all seem to be.

First Boy Shall we ask them to come in?

New Year Come in?

Several Why, what is the matter?

New Year Nothing — nothing. Really nothing is the matter. Won't some one take that book out of the room? There, I feel better already.

Second Girl Are you sure you feel all right?

New Year Yes. Oh, I am quite myself again. Do you hear them shouting? Call them in. We will make merry. They are all friends of mine whom I would have you know. You are sure that book is out of the room?

Third Boy Yes, sir, I took it away myself, and threw it out of a window.

New Year Thank you. I hear my friends coming. I am sure you will like them all. Who comes first? (*Winter, attended by December, January, and February, enters.*) Ah, Winter! This is Winter, friends. Don't shrink away from him. In spite of his cold

outside he has a warm heart. He loves fun and sport.

Winter Indeed, I do. I like to be jolly, and help make other people happy. Come, that is very good of you to shake hands with me. Now I want you to know my companions. This is December. What do you bring us ?

December Christmas.

Several Christmas ! Oh, we love Christmas.

Winter Yes, I know you do. Christmas is a blessed time, but you must each one of you try to make it an ever increasing season of joy and cheer.

The Boys and Girls We will.

Winter This is January. That is right, boys and girls, give him a hearty handshake. There will be lots of ice and snow while he is about. You love to skate and slide, don't you ?

Boys and Girls Yes, we do.

January I will see that you have plenty of good ice and lots of snow.

Winter This is February, boys and girls. You can see he is smaller than my other two friends, but he is a pretty important fellow.

You know when it is time for him to go that spring days are near at hand. February, tell these young people what is important about you.

February On my twelfth day Abraham Lincoln was born, and on my twenty-second day George Washington, your first President, was born.

Winter You won't forget these dates, will you, children?

Boys and Girls No, we won't. We all honor George Washington and Abraham Lincoln.

New Year That is right. No American boy or girl should ever forget them. Come in, Spring. We are glad to see you and your friends, March, April, and May. You are so cheerful to meet. Don't you say so, children?

Boys and Girls Yes, we do.

A Girl Oh! Please, is March angry?

Spring No, dear, March is not angry. That is just his way. He blows and blusters a great deal, and likes to play pranks.

March Yes, you must keep tight hold on your hats when I am about. Sometimes I

have blown little boys and girls over. Look out ! Ooo-oo-oo-oo ! Ha, ha, ha, ha, ha !

A Girl My, isn't he strong ?

A Boy Yes, but I don't mind him.

Spring No, don't mind March, for on the whole he does far more good than harm. Well, April, can't you smile for these young friends ?

April Oh, yes, I can smile, but there is so much in the world to make me cry.

Boys and Girls We think you so pretty when you smile.

Spring Yes, and a smile is a great deal better than tears or a frown at any time. There, children, she is smiling at last. But look at May ; see the violets in her hands, and hear her song.

May

Gone is winter's sadness,
All its storm and cold,
Blade and bud upspringing
From the sun-kissed mold.
Robin and the bluebird
Sing a happy song ;
Heralds of the summer,
Coming right along.

New Year Here is Summer now. Welcome, Summer.

Boys and Girls Welcome, Summer.

Summer Thank you all for giving me such a hearty welcome. I want you to know my friends, June, July, and August.

Boys and Girls We are glad to meet you.

Summer June, tell what it is you bring us.

June I bring roses. But I bring something else. What is it, children?

Boys and Girls The end of school.

Summer July, you bring a very special day. I wonder if these children can tell what it is?

Boys and Girls The Fourth of July.

Summer Yes, but hasn't it another name?

Boys and Girls Independence Day.

Summer That is right. August, please tell us what you bring.

August I bring the best days of the long vacation. I bring ripe grains and many promises of rich harvests.

Boys and Girls We have jolly good times when August comes.

New Year Here is Autumn, hail and hearty old Autumn, children, and his three trusty friends, September, October, and November.

Boys and Girls We do like you very much. We like October, for he brings us nuts and apples. He brings Hallowe'en too, when we have lots of fun.

A Boy We like you, too, November, because you bring us Thanksgiving.

November I am greatly obliged to you, boys and girls, for greeting me so heartily. But doesn't October bring you another day that you ought to remember?

Boys and Girls We know the day you mean; the day on which Columbus discovered America.

November That is right.

September I seem to have been overlooked. Can't you children think of something that I bring?

Boys and Girls You bring us the beginning of school.

September You don't like that?

Boys and Girls Well, we would like a longer vacation.

Autumn. Surely the vacation days are long enough.

New Year The children never think so. Already I am beginning to wish that I could see a vacation ahead. But work has begun for me in earnest, and I shall be busy to the end of my days.

Several Oh, no ! No ! Stay young with us and be merry.

New Year I will be merry with you to-night. I am ready for any fun.

All (*Sing.*)

Give a friendly greeting,
Add a song of cheer,
Give a kindly welcome
To the glad New Year.
Shout his name in chorus,
Gladly sing his praise,
"New Year," cry. Our voices
Now as one voice raise.

January Cheer him, — the New Year.
Now, all together.

All (*Excepting New Year, who is bowing to all.*) Hurrah ! Hurrah ! Hurrah !

